

# STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 28, 2013

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## Memory Lane

Lye church minister loved by parishioners

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## Competition

Meet a TV hero and win a £100 Merry Hill gift card

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## Local fight

Pearce takes on Stourbridge rival

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## Woman dies in blaze at her flat

A WOMAN died after a fire broke out in the living room of her flat in Stourbridge.

The 63-year-old, who has not been named, was found dead at the property in Baylie Court, Green Street, Stourbridge, last week.

Fire, ambulance and police crews were called to the block of flats, off Stourbridge Ring Road, after receiving an emergency call at around 10am on Friday.

They arrived to discover a fire in the living room of the 10th-floor flat. During a search of the property, crews found the dead woman.

### Damage

A joint fire and police investigation was launched to discover the cause of the blaze.

But police later said the death was not being treated as suspicious.

The main entrance to the 15-storey block of flats remained sealed off for more than three hours following the fire as investigations were carried out.

Fire service spokesman Jeremy Sharpe said the blaze had caused around 15 per cent damage to the property.

"The fire remained confined to the living room, which we believe is where it started," he said.

He said the woman had lived at the flat.

## Tutors opt for tribunal

FOUR maths lecturers who were sacked from Halesowen College will take their case claiming unfair dismissal to a tribunal.

Lecturers David Muritu and Jason White together with two other tutors have lodged their case with the employment tribunal in Birmingham. It is expected to be heard this June, union officials say. A 12,500-strong petition has been collected by members of the University and College Union in protest over the sackings.

Principal Keith Bate was unavailable for comment.

# POLICE SET UP SHOP TO HELP FIGHT CRIME

by Andrew Turton

**POLICE will be based in Stourbridge's Ryemarket shopping centre at weekends as part of a new crime prevention scheme.**

Officers say a high visibility presence in the town's main shopping centre will help the drive against crime while also giving people the chance to report concerns.

The police will be based near Home Bargains and Costa Coffee every Saturday between 10am and 1pm.

The move comes after the police operated similar "Cop Shops" in Stourbridge and Halesowen town centres over Christmas to tackle shoplifting.

Ward councillor Barbara Sykes welcomed the scheme saying it would foster stronger community relations between residents and police.

Stourbridge officers will offer crime prevention advice and tips on personal safety, keeping belongings secure and protecting homes and vehicles.

They will be able to register personal property on an online database called Immobilise.

### Excellent

Officers will use a laptop to link belongings, such as mobile phones, bikes and computers, to the secure internet site.

If those belongings are lost or stolen, police say there is a greater chance of being reunited with their owner.

Sgt Ade George based at Stourbridge police station, said the shopping centre offered a more informal place for people to approach officers.

He added: "After the excellent feedback we received from the public about the Christmas Cop Shop, this one should be a successful way of engaging with the community and businesses. We welcome anyone to pop down and meet the team. We are here to listen to your concerns and help in any way we can."

Councillor Sykes said the scheme was an excellent idea in light of reduced opening hours at the town's police station.

"The more the police come into the community, the more they will become part of the community," she said.

## Spotlight shines on talented award-winners



Front, Could it be Magic/That's Life, Sam Gorman, left, aged 20, of Bilbrook, Lee Aldridge, 27, of Aldridge, Phil Richards, 32, of Coseley, Brett Foster, 31, of Tipton, Jay Catalano, 35, of Stourbridge, with back, Man Maid - Sam Tanner, 53, left, and Becky Tanner, 37, Stuart James, 36, of Oldbury, Kia, of Wednesfield, Janine Jeffery, 34, and Ashley Jeffery, 38, of Pelsall

TOP singing talent took their moment in the spotlight to celebrated being named among the region's best acts.

Five acts, including boyband tribute group Could it be Magic/That's Life featuring Stourbridge's Jay Catalano, claimed gongs at the Mid Counties Entertainment Council's Spotlight Awards.

Jay, 35, and friends Brett Foster, 31, Lee Aldridge, 27, Sam Gorman, 20, and 32-year-old Phil Richards treated the audience to a packed set full of Take That hits.

They and the other singers played to a sell-out 220-strong crowd at Quarry Bank Labour Club. And everything was all right on the night for the glitzy bash despite last-minute rehearsals, late dashes to make the

show on time, and final costume drama.

Tracks from Elvis, The Killers, Billy Ocean and Take That were among the hits as the acts took turns on stage before accepting their awards. Solo singers Stuart James and Kia were joined by duos ManMaid and Ashley and Could It Be Magic/That's Life to receive gongs.

Council secretary and night organiser Malcolm Edwards, aged 66, heralded the night as a shot-in-the-arm for clubland.

### Builder

"We have some of the best singers here in the country and this awards show is a representation of all the great artists in this area," said Mr Edwards, a former Round Oak Steel-works worker and builder.

First on the bill was professional singer Stuart James, of Oldbury, who won the top male vocalist honour. The 36-year-old father-of-two has performed in Spain, America and Dubai. Husband and wife duo Ashley and Janine Jeffery, juggle performing with bringing up their three children. The couple, of Walsall, have been married 11 years. They won honours for the top duo alongside another act ManMaid aka Sam and Becky Tanner, from Warwickshire.

Solo singer Kia, of Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, arrived just minutes before the show started after getting stuck in traffic. But after a quick change she was ready to hit the stage to perform and collect her award as best female vocalist.

## Protest at hospital canteen cutbacks

MORE than 600 patients, staff and volunteers have signed a petition against plans to scale back the canteen at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Bosses have revealed they want to reduce the opening hours of the canteen to save £110,000 a year.

But the move has led to criticism from union officials who have started a petition to stop the plans. The proposals have also put jobs at risk. There are 64 workers, and a consultation is under way.

Under the plans, the canteen would close at weekends and be open between 7am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday. It is now open 7am to 8pm each day.

Tracy Wood of Unison, said: "Unison visited Russells Hall Hospital to gauge reaction to the canteen closure and potential job losses. Not one person we spoke to agreed the changes should take place."

"Long-serving canteen staff will lose their jobs because the Government has chosen to cut the NHS budget."

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, has defended the move, saying: "This decision follows a comprehensive review of footfall through the restaurant, which concluded there was very little footfall after the lunchtime service."

## Residents in badger wait

PEOPLE living in a cul-de-sac in Wordsley who are being plagued by badgers digging up their gardens, have been told they must wait for a solution to the problem.

People in The Haven have complained for four years but the animals are a protected species.

Dudley Council says they have to wait for guidelines from the Government and Natural England before deciding on how to tackle the problem.

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## Thousands of pupils are missing school

THOUSANDS of children missed school for more than a month in a year across the region.

Absence rates in the Dudley borough, Wolverhampton, and Sandwell were all above the national average. Walsall fared significantly better and the figure in Staffordshire fell.

Overall absence for 2011/2012 across the UK averaged 5.2 per cent,

according to figures from the Department for Education (DfE).

In the West Midlands, Wolverhampton has the highest rate of pupils persistently absent, with almost 2,000 missing from lessons in a year - 6.4 per cent. Dudley is on 6.2 per cent and Sandwell on six.

Staffordshire fell to 4.6 per cent and Walsall 4.8 per cent.

The DfE figures showed that

1,980 of the 30,955 pupils enrolled for school in Wolverhampton were not in class for more than a month.

The Government defines a child as persistently absent if they miss more than a month of school.

## Problem

No-one from Wolverhampton City Council was available to comment, but Dudley Council's cabinet member for education, Councillor

Tim Crumpton, said: "I don't think pupil absence is a major problem for us in Dudley. It is the school's responsibility, and we work with them when needed if they are having any problems with a particular pupil's absence rate. We provide support and advice."

In Sandwell schools 2,590 of the 42,860 pupils in Sandwell were persistently absent.

## Police chief unveils his new team of assistants

WEST Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones has announced the names of his three new assistants.

He has picked former police authority chairman Mohammed Nazir to represent Wolverhampton and Walsall, Dudley councillor Judy Foster for the Dudley borough area and Sandwell, and Paye Abbot for Coventry and Solihull.

They will each be paid £22,500 a year for just 10 days work a month.

Mr Jones has also appointed four non-executive members, who are Brendan Connor, Ernie Hendricks, Tim Sawdon and former police officer Cath Hannon, who stood against Mr Jones in the police commissioner elections. They will be paid £7,500 for two days a month.

Mr Jones is paid £100,000 a year and his deputy, Yvonne Mosquito, is paid £65,000 a year.

The new representatives will sit on the police commissioner's Strategic Policing and Crime Board.

Mr Jones said his job was too big for one person and that the overall budget for his office next year would be £100,000 less than that of the former police authority.

He said: "I am delighted to make these appointments. Individually, each has a strong track record of public service, relevant experience, knowledge, and expertise. Among them there is a former chair and two vice-chairs of the police authority."

"The three major political parties are represented, and the board members come from across the West Midlands. There is a mix of gender and ethnicity that is more representative of our area."

"I intend to ask the Assistant PCCs and non-executive members to be 'champions' who will lead on specific areas such as victims, health and liaison with the NHS, technology, equalities and human rights, and business."

The board of councillors that oversees the work of the commissioner objected to plans to appoint assistants, but Mr Jones pressed ahead.



Commissioner Bob Jones

## Teams' tournament for Luke



Team captain Josh Patton, aged 16, Luke's father, Matthew Chapman, and friend Ashlee Bourne, 16, of Hagley, and players at the tournament

RUGBY teams lined up to take part in a tournament in memory of tragic teenager.

Luke Chapman, aged 15, died from a sudden irregular heartbeat while playing rugby for Hagley's Haybridge High last March.

The Sun pub at Romsley, near Halesowen, arranged a tournament in his memory to raise money for Cardiac Risk in the Young.

Hundreds of people saw six under-16 teams play at Luke's old club, Old Halesowenians, at Hagley's Wassell Grove.

Luke's grandfather Alan Chapman, of Barnetts Green, Kingswinford, said that the event was a "wonderful tribute" to a young man who had been so passionate about the sport.

Mr Chapman, 72, said: "I think if Luke could have seen this, he'd have been so proud. He loved his rugby."

Luke, of Meadowcroft, Hagley, had been playing rugby when he died from sudden adult death syndrome a year ago.

Mr Chapman said that various events since Luke's death had raised more than £16,000 for the Cardiac Risk in the Young charity.



Luke Chapman, died aged 16, while playing rugby

## Brothers jailed for £10,000 damage

TWO brothers who went on the rampage at a house in Stourbridge, have been jailed.

They caused almost £10,000 damage to the house and attacked the occupier with pick axe handles, a court heard.

James and Kieran Taplin, aged 26 and 24, smashed windows of the house, then the glass of cars in the driveway.

Prosecutor Mr David Swinnerton said the violence flared after a dispute over a mobile phone between the Taplins' sister and another person in Stourbridge.

The brothers later went to a house in Ambleside where it was thought that that person lived, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

James Taplin of Hartlebury Road, Lion Farm Estate, Oldbury, was convicted of the Ambleside affray by a jury after a trial.

He was jailed for 15 months.

Kieran Taplin, of Union Street, Stourbridge, admitted criminal damage and affray during the incident, and also admitted assaulting a boy and man in a separate incident in Wollaston.

He was sent to prison for a total of 22 months.

## Hospital is praised by inspectors

A HEALTH watchdog the Care Quality Commission has awarded top marks to Bloxwich Hospital.

As part of the commission's dignity and nutrition inspection programme, the hospital was found to meet all national standards and scored highly in aspects such as patients being treated with respect and being protected from abuse.

Wendy Pugh, of the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust which runs the hospital, said: "We are delighted with the feedback from the report, which is testament to the hard work of our staff who are committed to delivering the highest quality care."

As part of the inspection, watchdogs observed how people were being cared for, looked at records and talked to patients.

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## College hosting football tryouts

SCHOOL leavers are wanted for football trials as a first step to start professional careers in the game.

Stourbridge College's male and female football academies are holding the first of this year's football trials on April 10 and April 11 at Kidderminster Harriers Football Club's Aggborough Stadium.

Already in its second year, Kidderminster Harriers Football Academy has been producing successful players ready to start professional careers.

Students are studying for a sports qualification as well as improving their football skills through a professional coaching and games programme.

Stella Raphael-Reeves, director of sport at Stourbridge College, said: "The Football Academy has been extremely successful since it was set up two years ago.

There are limited places available and courses and football coaching take place at the college's Centre of Excellence for Sport in Kidderminster.

Anyone interested in sport including golf, rugby, and boxing should check out Stourbridge College's range of academies at [www.stourbridge.ac.uk/sport](http://www.stourbridge.ac.uk/sport)

## Town gets ready for Lenny date

COMIC Lenny Henry is to be presented with the Freedom of Dudley within a couple of months if plans go ahead, the borough's leader has revealed.

The star, born near Buffery Park in the town, was awarded the accolade last month.

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks said while final arrangements were still being made the presentation was expected within two months.

"At the moment it is with Lenny's people. He has national and international commitments so it can take a while to get a date confirmed," he said.

"Everything is ready from the council's side of things and as soon as we get a date available to him we can make the preparations."

# Doomed bricks factory remains open

A WELL-KNOWN brick factory is to remain in use for the near future despite operations being wound down there.

Ibstock Brick announced the closure of its base in Tansey Green Road, Kingswinford, last July, blaming a decline in the demand for bricks.

But a small number of workers remain at the site eight months after the announcement was first made, and despite operations being scaled down.

And bosses have said the situation will continue for the time being as workers are needed to continue dispatching remaining

products to customers and maintain site security.

A date has still to be set for when the landmark factory, well-known in the area for its large stacks of neatly piled bricks, will close permanently.

Consultation took place with the 31 people employed at the site following the announcement that the factory was to close.

Around 10 members of staff at the site were redeployed to other factories operated by Ibstock in the area.

The firm blamed closure of the factory on tough trading conditions.

Officials said the drop in business over recent years had forced bosses to have a rethink on how the firm operated.

Group marketing manager for Ibstock Brick Andrew Halstead-Smith said there was no closure date set for the business.

The company was formed in the 1800s and has run the Kingswinford factory for a number of years. It is one of more than 20 bases the firm has in the UK, including factories in Aldridge and Cannock.

When the closure of the Kingswinford base was announced in July, bosses said the aim was to maintain "optimum operational effi-

ciency" at the remaining factories.

In Dudley alone there used to be 25 brick works but the heavy clay industry suffered a blow brought on by low levels of demand for building materials and the burden of energy taxes and the volatility in wholesale energy prices.

This led to a pattern of closures. As well as the closure of the Ibstock Stourbridge Works, Bagbridge Sedgley Works shut in 2009 following a takeover by the Austrian company Wienerberger. Himley, again owned by Ibstock, closed around 10 years ago.

# Car dealer who sold unsafe vehicles is jailed for a year

## Spring on hold as snow brings misery



The snow made for picturesque scenes like this one in Brierley Hill but it also caused misery for commuters

SNOW and freezing temperatures brought misery to the West Midlands last week, shutting schools and causing major problems for commuters.

A fall of two inches of snow on Thursday night left 3,000 homes in the region without power.

Scores of pupils got the day off as a number of schools and colleges failed to open on Friday.

Among those in the Dudley borough closed were High Arcal School, Sedgley, Cotwall End Primary School, Sedgley, opened later.

In Sandwell schools including Branshall Primary, The Meadows Sports College, Oldbury; Springfield

Primary, Rowley Regis and Eaton Valley Primary, West Bromwich closed.

A sponsored walk by children at St Paul's Primary, Tipton, to help Birmingham Children's Cancer Care unit, attended by two of their pupils, was postponed.

Twenty Sandwell schools closed, and council gritters worked through the night. Bin collections were expected to be normal, with residents advised to put their rubbish out on time.

Then on Saturday, further heavy snow brought yet more misery across the region.

Drivers faced treacherous driving

conditions and many roads were blocked before 7am.

Flights to and from Birmingham Airport were suspended on Saturday morning and passengers were advised to check their flights with the airline.

It is thought this March may be the coldest since 1969.

Predictions for this week and into April suggested unsettled conditions, with snow at times. Forecasters added that snow threatens the Midlands and the South on Easter Saturday.

Forecaster Andrew Sibley said: "It is going to remain bitterly cold through the week with easterly winds keeping temperatures below freezing at night and just above during the day.

A ROGUE trader who sold cars unfit for the roads to unsuspecting customers was told he had caused an "immense amount of damage and upset", as he was jailed for a year.

Former Brierley Hill man Geoff Badlan claimed the cars were in good condition as he tried to flog them on internet trading websites from his two garages, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

The 38-year-old ran used car dealerships at West Lake Motors, in High Street, Pensnett, and Himley Value Centre, in Himley Road, on the border of Dudley and South Staffordshire.

One car he sold, a Golf GTI, had an insecure passenger seat that slipped forward five minutes after the customer drove away.

Badlan claimed it had two previous owners and drove "superbly". In fact it had 14 former owners and its MoT certificate expired seven months earlier than the Auto Trader advert claimed. The vehicle had a catalogue of problems including low tread on the tyres and a broken exhaust.

### Victim

On seeing the passenger seat fly forward into the dashboard, the victim returned to the dealership for a refund. He was told: "A deal is a deal. Inspectors later said the Golf was not roadworthy when sold."

Mark Jackson, prosecuting, said a few days later the same victim received a phone call from someone telling him it was his fault he had bought the car, and it was "tough".

Mr Jackson told the court that repeated attempts by Dudley Council's trading standards department to invite the defendant to be interviewed under caution after complaints, were unsuccessful.

Those delays prompted



Jailed - Geoff Badlan

trading standards and police to visit his businesses on June 25, where they found several unroadworthy cars. Prohibition notices were slapped on nine cars. Badlan, representing himself, said he had sold around 300 cars in a year and that he had received "five or six complaints". He said at the time, his marriage was breaking down.

Jailing him and giving him an anti-social behaviour order banning him from selling cars for 10 years, Judge Michael Challinor said: "You have caused an immense amount of damage and upset to a lot of people. This sentence is to punish you and deter other unscrupulous motor traders."

Badlan, who recently moved from Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, to Hall Road, Norwich, admitted six offences under the Road Traffic Act, 16 charges under consumer protection from unfair trading regulations and two offences under the Companies Act.

## NEWS in brief

### Pair in bungled robbery drama

TWO men threatened cash delivery officers with hammers in a bungled robbery attempt at a petrol station in Dudley last week.

The masked men ambushed the officers as they stopped to drop off money for the cash machine at BP Spanx 24, Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill.

The men ordered the officers to open their van - but they refused and within minutes the men fled empty-handed in a blue Audi.

### Nut business is sold to rival firm

A NUT, seed and dried fruit processing firm in Brierley Hill has changed ownership.

Quality Kernels, based on the Enterprise Trading Estate in Pedmore Road, has been sold by York-shire-based Zubrance to rival food firm Idolwood.

Zubrance had acquired Quality Kernels, which supplies food manufacturers with organic and Fair Trade products.

Idolwood owns Petrow Food Industries in Perivale, London.

### Woman avoids jail after attack

A WOMAN who grabbed a neighbour by the hair and punched her before threatening another with a knife in front of her son has been given a 12-month jail term suspended for 18 months.

Nicole Hewitt, aged 29, of Murrcroft Road, Stourbridge, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Hewitt, who believed her son had been bullied, admitted affray and assault.

### Plea goes out to woman's family

RELATIVES of a Halesowen woman, who has died aged 69, are being sought by the Black Country Coroner's Office.

Patricia Weston, who lived on Grange Road, died on March 14.

Any relatives of Patricia Weston, or anyone with information, is asked to telephone Elaine Huckfield on 0845 352 7490.

### Three hurt in car

THREE people were hurt when a car overturned in Dudley Road, outside Brierley Hill Fire Station, last week. Two men and a woman in their 20s in the Seat Ibiza were taken to hospital.

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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE real House of Commons is not the fiery place you saw for the opening of the Budget debate with the big beasts of Government and Opposition hurling razor-barbed sound-bites at each other as a packed chamber roared its approval or outrage. The real Commons, as it exists for 90 per cent of its time, is the near-empty, echoing place we saw six hours later. In this forlorn lost world the last speaker of the day, plucky Emma Reynolds (Lab, Wolverhampton NE) was banging on about inner-city mortality rates and unequal societies. A dozen or so MPs didn't even pretend to listen and a couple of rude old duffers talked loudly throughout her impassioned speech. It's not all glamour, being an MP.

□□□□□□□□

THE new Pope urges us all to pray for him. The Archbishop of Canterbury is off on a pilgrimage of prayer and he, too, wants us to join in his prayers. You see the difficulty? If prayer worked, we wouldn't need to be encouraged to do it. But it doesn't work, so we don't.

□□□□□□□□

A READER tells me his wife died last July and when his policy came up for renewal a few days ago, he was horrified to see the premium had increased by 50 per cent, because he is now the sole driver. He took it up with the call centre where a lady sympathised but refused to budge, explaining that this huge rise was "the industry standard." Funny, isn't it, how all those happy, snappy, chummy TV adverts for car insurance never mention this sort of thing?

□□□□□□□□

THE BBC Magazine raises the issue of bereavement leave, statutory time off work when a loved one dies. So far the Government has declined to intervene, on the grounds that the right to "reasonable time" off is already included in the 1996 Employment Rights Act, and that some people take longer to grieve than others.

And that's the problem. Once they started granting automatic leave, we could discover a new version of Parkinson's Law: grief expands to fit the time off available. Let me know your thoughts.

□□□□□□□□

AFTER the Connecticut primary-school massacre in December, Americans talked boldly of getting to grips with gun control. At the very least, politicians planned to outlaw assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Now, both plans have been quietly shelved. It was a very simple question: What does the United States cherish more, its children or its guns? Now we know.

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SCIENTISTS in Oklahoma believe swallows may be evolving shorter wings to help them get out of the way of cars. Short-winged swallows are faster and more agile and therefore less likely to get flattened by a Chevy Hedgehog of Britain! Are you listening?

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DID a number of MPs fiddle parliamentary expenses some years ago? Or were they just confused by a very complicated system? Isn't it time we all took a more understanding and sympathetic view of these hard-working public servants whose only crime is to want to make the world a kinder, better place? (Note: This column complies in every respect with the requirements of the Royal Charter on the Press).

□□□□□□□□

IN THE summer of 1987 I reviewed an open-air production of Richard II at Ludlow Festival. Behind me were two old ladies who could have nattered for England. When the tall, stately figure of John of Gaunt strode on stage to deliver one of the most moving speeches in the English language, those two old ladies erupted in loud whispers: "Ooh, look, it's him, that man from the programme on telly. The one about a department store. He's Captain Peacock." And so it was. Frank Thornton, who died recently, aged 92, may have been best remembered from Are You Being Served? but he was also a fine stage actor.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Traffic congestion tackled after fears

TRAFFIC congestion is being tackled in Netherton, near Brierley Hill, after concerns over air quality.

Queuing vehicles on main roads have been blamed for pollution. The move comes as other areas, including Amblecote, Cradley and Burnt Tree, are being strictly monitored over concerns about exhaust fumes in traffic jams.

Dudley Council says it is doing all

it can to tackle the issue and have improved monitoring levels.

Road improvements were made in Halesowen Road at the Northfield Road junction, Netherton, after queuing was identified as a problem.

New crossings have also been introduced to improve traffic flow and reduce emissions when traffic is at a standstill.

Traffic lights have been upgraded

at one of the main bottlenecks on Halesowen Road at its junction with Church Road opposite the Old Swan pub.

Ward councillor Qadar Zada says that the council has made good progress introducing the measures to improve air quality.

But he says this must continue, adding: "We must keep moving forward on this and monitoring air

quality following these measures will be key to seeing how well they are working."

He added: "The next stage will come with the changes to public health services over the next few months."

A report on air quality on the borough's busiest roads was to be outlined at Dudley Council's environment scrutiny committee.

# Figures reveal rise in the number of jobless

JOB queues in the Dudley borough, which includes Stourbridge, are getting longer as the UK's unemployed total rose by 7,000 from November to January to 2.52 million.

The West Midlands jobless figures rose by 4,000 to 241,000 from the previous quarter. Numbers claiming Job-seeker's Allowance in the region rose 3,673 to 166,605 - 4.7 per cent of the working population

## Man, 25, avoids jail for having drugs farm

A LONG-STANDING drug habit saved a man from jail after a cannabis farm was found at his home.

The drugs was uncovered when police were called following a row between Joginder Niner and his girlfriend on Boxing Day, a court heard last week.

Howard Searle, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Court Court officers found 28 plants being cultivated in a bedroom. The prosecution did not accept Niner was growing all the drugs for his own use.

But the 25-year-old, who was renting the property in Old Bridge Walk, Rowley Regis, said: "I have been smoking cannabis since I was 14 and could not afford to keep buying it, so I decided to grow some."

None of the paraphernalia associated with dealing was found. Judge John Warner said: "There was no evidence of drug dealing."

Niner, of Hagley Road West, Oldbury, admitted producing cannabis and was given a four-month jail sentence suspended for two years with £200 costs.

In the Dudley area, the claimant count increased by 98 to 10,437, or 5.3 per cent of the borough's working population - above the UK's average of 3.9 per cent.

Wyre Forest saw an increase of 48 to 2,328 (3.8 per cent) and South Staffordshire was up by just two to 1,737 or 2.6 per cent.

Roma Aitken, regional manager for Totaljobs.com in the West Midlands said: "What little job creation there has been over the last few months has largely been based on government programmes such as apprenticeship schemes."

"The retail industry has been hit the hardest in the region, with the loss of major high street chains at the beginning of the year."

## Earnings

For Sandwell the total was up 446 to 14,155 (7.2 per cent) and Wolverhampton had a rise of 221 to 12,691 - eight per cent, the highest rate in the West Midlands.

Birmingham was up 749 to 49,504 (7.2 per cent) and Walsall rose by 298 to 10,565 (6.3 per cent).

Average earnings increased by 1.2 per cent in the year to January, 0.1 per cent down on the previous month. Inflation has risen to 2.8 per cent.

Dave Prentis, general secretary of Unison, said: "The Government has failed our country."

Employment Minister Mark Hoban said: "We're helping people to move off benefits and into work."

## All set for fitness on court



Cardio team leader Sam Richardson and Ava Brabazon, aged four, Jacob Brabazon, six, both of Wombourne, and Harrison Beynon-Pierce, aged 11, of Stourbridge

VISITORS to Merry Hill shopping centre in Brierley Hill could try tennis with a difference as it hosted cardio tennis - more fitness than technique.

Taster sessions saw the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) give people of all ages the chance to have a go.

Sophie Curthoys, LTA national products manager, said: "It was really successful and we'll keep talking with Merry Hill to see how we can roll these fun days out during the year."

A mini tennis court was set up for children to play mini tennis, which has smaller courts, nets, rackets and lower bouncing balls.

Adults could try cardio tennis - tennis-

based drills played to pumping music on a tennis court.

Ten-minute taster sessions saw people learn the basics and get a free coupon for a session at a local club or gym. Mrs Curthoys said there were more than 650 UK venues with cardio tennis and the average player could burn about 600 calories a session, regardless of skill.

Mrs Curthoys said she was not sure how many people tried it during a three-day event but a recent similar event in London had attracted about 700 people. For information on cardio tennis and other variations of the game go to [www.allplaytennis.com](http://www.allplaytennis.com)

## Trio are jailed for neglect of horses

A FAMILY of three are behind bars after their long-term neglect of four horses they were keeping at a Dudley nature reserve.

A court heard it was a miracle that the animals, which were all emaciated, had survived their ordeal. The horses had been kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve, in Pensnett, Dudley, by Walter and Amanda Hickman and their son Kevin.

RSPCA inspectors rescued the animals in December 2011, Dudley Magistrates' Court heard.

The defendants, of Wallows Road, Pensnett, were jailed for more than 50 animal cruelty offences.

They admitted the charges but waited until the first day of a trial to do so.

In sentencing, District Judge Michael Wheeler said: "I'm told you love animals, especially horses, and that you have kept them for many years and know what you are doing. I find that impossible to believe."

RSPCA inspector Jackie Hickman welcomed the sentences.

She said: "Whilst tethering in itself is not an illegal practice, the many welfare problems that accompany it are worrying and we want to reassure people that the RSPCA is doing all we can to address the problems."

## Profits up at stores

DISCOUNT chain B&M, which has stores across the Black Country, has reported a rise in profits.

The chain, which runs 324 B&M stores offering low-cost groceries and home-ware has benefited from the closure of high street rivals.

It announced pre-tax profits up 43 per cent to £90.6 million for last year. Sales rose 31.5 per cent to £937.2m in 2012. B&M, which was founded in 1978, plans to grow to have at least 400 stores in the UK.

## Vegetable class

A FREE class showing how to get the best from vegetables and flowers is being held in Wolverhampton.

Allseasons, at Sandy Lane Allotments in Bushbury, is putting on the class on April 20 from 11am to 1pm. Call 01902 789711 for details.

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## Eleven go on the bill as festival is lined up

ORGANISERS of Stourbridge's first blues festival are finalising the line-up.

Eleven performers have already joined the bill for the 12-hour long music festival to be held at Stourbridge Rugby Club's Stourton Park.

Cash raised from the event on May 18 will be donated to Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice, based in Hagley Road.

The afternoon session features an acoustic stage with Jack Blackman, The Trebletones, Blues Boy Dan, Krystal Mills and Sarah Warren from 1pm.

The main stage starts at about 6pm with the Paul Stedman Band followed by Tom Walker Trio, Barrelhouse blues band, Mojohooker, Laurence Jones and finishing off with Slowburner.

Organiser Gary James says that the festival aims to keep music alive in the area while giving performers a stage and boosting the coffers at Mary Stevens Hospice.

"We have got good pubs and venues in the area where many of these people play so we thought it would be a great idea to get them all together to play under one roof," he said.

Tickets are priced at £10 and are available online at [www.stourbridgebluesfestival.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgebluesfestival.co.uk) or at Stourton Park, Bridgnorth Road, Stourton, Stourbridge.

## Garage in ram raid reopened

A PETROL station is back in business after a bungled ram raid smashed through the shop wall more than a month ago – but the raiders are yet to be caught.

The would-be thieves used a pick-up truck to break into Costcutters at Clarence Street Service Station in Dudley to take cash from the ATM inside.

But they left empty-handed having been unable to break into the cash machine.

They did, however, leave the wall fallen down and stock inside damaged.

No arrests have been made in relation to the incident and police are still investigating.

# New housing plans for derelict club site



The derelict war memorial club

PLANS to build four homes for young adults on the site of a derelict former war memorial club have been withdrawn and replaced with an alternative scheme for four houses, it has been revealed.

The scheme to demolish Ambleside War Memorial Club and build four detached care homes for young adults was submitted to Dudley Council in January but agents for applicant Bains Builders Limited said further consultation raised concerns over traffic.

The applicant decided to withdraw the original scheme and submit a revised proposal for four regular houses on the site instead.

These have now gone to Dudley Council for consideration. Under the new scheme, the building will still be demolished but will be replaced by houses – each with four en-suite bedrooms.

They would be brick-built with the style in keeping with properties in the area. Vehicles would use the existing access point in Ambleside High Street and each house will have two car parking spaces.

Agent Tommy Wong said in a report: "Following the recent submission for four care homes further consultation took place."

"Concerns were raised regarding excessive traffic flow going in and out of the site. It was therefore the applicant's decision to withdraw the application and resubmit a revised proposal."

"All comments received have been taken on board and incorporated in the scheme submitted as part of this application."

The former club building suffered vandalism, fire and weather damage since closing in 2002.

It was founded in 1921 for ex-servicemen. Lack of bookings and activities was cited as reason for closure. The site was on the market for three years and had a guide price of £175,000 before being sold in September. The site includes a bowling green and a car park.

Residents have called for action to clean up the site for years, saying that the building had become an eyesore on a main route into Stourbridge town centre.

# Badgers' burrowing blight continues to cause damage



Khurshid Ahmed

A CUL-DE-SAC is being blighted by badgers tearing up gardens and burrowing into a sandstone bank near to homes, despite a long campaign by residents.

People living in The Haven, Wordsley, have to clear up damage caused by the animals daily with plants uprooted and mess left on driveways.

They say badgers have plagued the area for about four years but, because the animals are a protected species, finding a solution to the problem is difficult.

Part of the sandstone bank was removed by Dudley Council following complaints to prevent debris from burrowing badgers causing damage to properties.

Residents say nothing had been done since and badgers still remain a constant problem. But they now face a wait for long-term solution.

### Surveys

Dudley Council say they are waiting for guidelines from the Government and Natural England before deciding on the most appropriate way forward.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for housing on the council, said while monitoring would continue there was little else which could be done for now.

"Regular surveys will be carried out but in the meantime we are continuing to wait for guidelines," he said.

Resident Lorraine Price, 81, said the council had agreed to remove a pile of sandstone which had gathered.

"I suppose we will have to wait and see what the guidelines are. I am not hopeful of anything happening in the near future if I'm honest."

## Rules for safety on the cards

PUPILS have designed a new card game to drive home a safety message to young people in the Dudley borough.

Messages on bullying, internet safety, robbery, carrying weapons and safer travel are all part of the innovative scheme.

The Battle Cards have been created by pupils at Holly Hall Academy, Dudley, to encourage other children to be more streetwise, and were launched with the help of head boy Charly Bagley and head girl Gagandeep Sandhar.

Pupils worked with Dudley's community safety partnership Safe and Sound, school governors, police officers and church leaders to create the card game which encourages youngsters to think about the choices they make. There is also information on support services in the borough.

Last year a board game was launched to teach young people to think about their personal safety.

## Friends ride out in memory of hero



Captain Edward Porter, Pc Chris Bramley and Captain Paul Goddard are seen off on their 500km cycle ride by the Mercian Regiment mascot ram Lance Corporal Derby, Corporal Andrew Skinner and Private Josh Roberts

FRIENDS of a Black Country-born soldier killed in Afghanistan completed a gruelling 500km bike ride to honour his memory and raise money to support his baby son.

Captain Edward Porter, of the Royal Marines, and Pc Chris Bramley, of the Metropolitan Police, were devastated by the death of their school friend Captain Rupert Bowers last March.

They attended Stourbridge's Oldswinford Hospital School together and both Capt Porter and Pc Bramley said their friend had been a role model to them throughout their lives.

Capt Bowers, of 2nd Battalion The

Mercian Regiment, died after he stepped on a bomb while on a routine patrol.

Both Capt Porter and Pc Bramley wanted to do something to ensure Capt Bowers' widow Victoria and baby son Hugo had the financial support they needed.

### Cheers

They decided to stage the 500km sponsored cycle which set off from the school to the cheers of students and teachers.

Capt Porter and Pc Bramley, both aged 26, were joined on the challenge

by 31-year-old Captain Paul Goddard, of the 2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment.

He served with Capt Bowers in Northern Ireland and Afghanistan.

The challenge took the riders to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court, Surrey.

They then travelled to Lichfield where Capt Bower's regimental headquarters is based, before riding back to the school.

The school has raised £3,200 for the Help for Hugo charity. The challenge will also raise funds for the Winston's Wish charity, for bereaved children.

## NEWS

### in brief

#### Zoo gives a push to breeding birds

BIRDKEEPERS at Dudley Zoo are busy preparing for the upcoming bird breeding season.

Many of the collection typically breed around March and April, and keepers are giving them a little encouragement by adding extra foliage, plants and nesting boxes to many of the enclosures.

Section leader, Kellie Piper, said: "Breeding preparation varies with species – we are making up wooden nesting boxes for the scarlet macaws and Amazon parrots, whereas others prefer platforms."

#### Armed robbers flee empty-handed

TWO thieves threatened cash delivery officers with hammers in a bungled robbery attempt at a busy petrol station in Dudley.

The masked men ambushed the officers as they stopped to drop off money at the cash machine at BP Snax 24, in Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill. The men ordered the officers to open their van – but they refused and within minutes the men fled empty handed in a blue Audi car.

#### Protest planned on bedroom tax

A DISABILITY group has organised a protest against the controversial "bedroom tax".

More than 200 people are expected to descend on Kidderminster for the demonstration organised by Disability Action Wyre Forest. It will take place outside the town hall in Vicar Street on March 30 from 12.30pm. Community groups, charities and unions are invited to join.

#### Museum talk on being a curator

VISITORS to Worcester-shire County Museum can discover what it is like to be a curator with the first of a series of new talks.

The event will take place at the Hartlebury Castle-attraction on April 24.

The talk will run from 11am to 12.30pm and tickets, costing £16, must be pre-booked. Call 01299 250416.

#### Demolition plans

PLANS to demolish a former Kidderminster pub have been lodged. Clarks of Kidderminster has submitted proposals for a car sales business on the site of the Crown Inn in Old Chester Road South.



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## NEWS

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

GREAT to see that modern-day political philosopher Katie Price striking a blow for Middle England.

Springing to the defence of the housing association which advised its tenants to cut back on non-essential spending, the artist formerly known as Jordan used her newspaper column to launch a broadside against some of the people who fail to live up to her admittedly high standards.

"I've noticed a lot of people who haven't got jobs but they seem to find money to buy fags, drink alcohol and smoke spliffs," she declared, in almost Churchillian tones.

"They've also got more gadgets than a PC World warehouse. Why? Because you and me – the hardworking men and women of Britain – do not spend our days going on the Jeremy Kyle show."

"We get up early and come home late, slogging our guts out to pay for THEIR luxuries."

Hear, hear, Katie, you've hit the nail on the head. Now remind me. What was it you used to do for a living?

□□□□□  
VAN driver: "Is there a B & Q in Wednesday?"

Black Country mon: "Dunno, but there's two. 'T's in Tipton".

□□□□□  
LET'S get this right. The reason Sebastian Vettel had a face like a wet weekend as he stood on the podium after the Malaysian Grand Prix was because he won.

Offering the sort of expression of regret which even Nick Clegg would think twice about, the German Formula One star said after the race: "I messed up today. I apologise for that. I am the black sheep."

Apparently, he was not supposed to win, but should have left first place to his team-mate Mark Webber, due to some complicated rule that would have meant the team would have got more points if Webber had won.

Now imagine if those principles were translated into another sport. Could you imagine Mo Farrah taking a breather in the middle of the 10,000 metres, because it was Christopher Thompson's turn for a medal?

Or a footballer booting a penalty into the crowd because both sides had agreed to stage the 0-0 draw that would guarantee them safety from relegation?

There is no doubt that given the rules of Formula One, the gentlemanly thing would have been for Vettel to have held his place and let his team-mate take the glory.

But to those of us who find the idea of watching a lot of funny-looking cars running round a track about as much fun as a police motorway video, the events of the weekend have done nothing to dissuade us from our view. That motor racing is a very strange sport indeed.

□□□□□

EAMONN Holmes on Sky News last week: "Today we have a yellow snow alert."

No, he didn't mean that.



John Hurley with his digger, which has an engine and moving shovel arms



This perfect miniature gipsy caravan is among John's creations

# How John turns old matchsticks into art

LEE WATTON watched artist John Hurley work on one of his astonishing models built only from matchsticks

**ARTIST John Hurley has just put the finishing touches to his latest unique work.**

Mr Hurley creates miniature models not from clay or stone, but from humble matchsticks – tens of thousands of them.

And his latest creation is a model of a mechanical digger, made from no fewer than 250,000 matches.

Mr Hurley, aged 70, who is from Dudley, has been working on the piece, which comes complete with moving shovel arms and doors, for just over a year.

The talented former lorry driver and machine operator has even created a removable engine for the digger, again with fully working parts, housed in a compartment at the front of the model.

And adding to the accuracy of the piece the wheels turn and the operator's seat swivels around, just as it would in a real digger.

## Complete

Mr Hurley, who lives in Dixons Green Road, said he had not counted the number of hours he had spent working on the model, but estimated it to be in the hundreds.

"It is hard to keep track as sometimes I will work on a piece all day and then not touch it again for a week or so when I will begin again," he said.

"All-in-all the digger has taken me just over a year to complete. Other models take less time to make."

The digger is the latest in a long line of models Mr Hurley has created using only matches since he first took up the hobby at the age of 11. He started by creating tobacco tins for people in the area – covering tins in matches of varied shapes and sizes to create different designs.



John Hurley painstakingly puts the finishing touches to a gipsy caravan



The craftsmanship on a gipsy caravan



A wheel of the mechanical digger

"I created a lot of the tins for people. When I was growing up a lot of people used to smoke so the used matches were certainly not in short supply," he said.

"After that it became an interest of mine and I started to look at what else I could create using matches. It has grown from there."

He said his mother Florence had been supportive of her son's talent, spending

and pick-axes which are attached to the side, again from matches.

There are also model mangles, which people used to do their washing, with parts which move when a small handle on the side is turned.

The caravans take Mr Hurley around six months to make in all.

Mr Hurley said he had developed a number of his own techniques over the years, which he did not believe anyone else in the world used to create models of this kind.

One technique involves creating tiny notches in matches with his thumbnail in order to bend them to create wheels and similar structures.

Mr Hurley said he sells his models to people who want them – except for one gipsy caravan which he made for his wife Catherine.

## Generous

"I made the JCB digger for someone but unfortunately that has fallen through so I would be happy to hear from anyone who wanted to buy it," he said.

At the moment he is repairing a caterpillar digger he made some time ago which was purchased by someone in America.

"Unfortunately when they got it there they dropped it so I have to piece it all back together again. It is quite complicated because this one has caterpillar tracks," he said.

So where does he get the tens of thousands of matches that he needs for his models?

Mr Hurley said many generous people donated matches for him to use in his work, but he also thought nothing of picking up used ones he found lying in the street.

"In fairness that is how it all started years ago when I was a boy gathering what matches I could," he said.

"It is a shame for them to go to waste when I can make them something with them."

Anyone interested in buying Mr Hurley's mechanical digger can telephone him on 01384 825894.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

### 1983...

AN action plan was launched to tidy up the derelict Birmingham-Wolverhampton railway line, dubbed 'the worst view from a train window in Britain'. Image-conscious West Midlands county council planners want to get rid of spoil heaps and derelict factories.

A FIREMAN saved the life of a 16-year-old girl by catching her as she plummeted to the ground after jumping off a narrow ledge. David Drury caught the teenager after she climbed onto the ledge 30ft up, but lost her grip.

BALLET students in Bilston set a record for the school's highest set of exam results. More than 75 per cent of pupils at the Roma Weekes School of Dance scored at least 80 out of a possible 100, with almost half being awarded honours.

### 1993...

A FAREWELL reception was held for a leading Wolverhampton clergyman as he took a new appointment. The Right Reverend Christopher Mayfield was the town's Bishop for eight years and was inducted to be the Bishop of Manchester.

DINNER lady Jean Parker signed off after 24 years on playground patrol at a Sedgley school. She supervised meals and play times for two generations, including her own four children.

NEARLY 1,000 people formed a human chain to celebrate the opening of nature trail for the disabled at Walsall special school. The path was carved out by Walsall's TA unit to provide access for wheelchair-bound and handicapped youngsters. Children, parents and teachers joined hands at a giant opening party at Three Crowns School.

### 2003...

ONE of the Black Country's oldest off-licences called last orders after more than a century of trading. The Wine Keg in Brook Street, Gornal Wood, known locally as The Kitchen, closed due to the retirement of proprietors Jim and Janet Cartwright.

FEATHERS were flying in Shipley after a relaxation-loving parrot was snatched from his garden centre home. Jarvis, an 18-month old Jardine parrot, was stolen from under the noses of staff at Gardenland, Bridgnorth Road.

SPRING fever swept across the West Midlands as sun-worshippers basked in the brightest March on record. Temperatures of around 15C became the norm as the region saw over three weeks without a single drop of rain.

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## LETTERS

## Advertising a job is now a joke

I AM so angry I do not know where to start.

As a small business owner, in this current economic climate I thought the Job Centre plus would be grateful of me giving them the opportunity to advertise two vacancies, one full-time and one part-time.

After trying several different telephone numbers and listening to numerous recorded messages eventually I got to speak to a human being.

Unfortunately this person was of no help or use to me and the current system to advertise a vacancy is

nothing more than a joke. It is no longer possible to give a job centre employee the details of your business and the type of people you are looking for, you have to go through one of the following:

1. Register on line and go through a maze of questions which are time consuming and mostly irrelevant.
  2. Send and receive job details by fax.
  3. Request register details by post.
- I gave up with the online registration as it would not accept my email. I do not have fax facility. I wanted to fill the vacancies as

quickly as possible so thought post was not suitable. Whatever happened to human contact where you could discuss the positions available and the type of candidate you are looking for to fill the roll.

If it is this difficult to advertise a job opportunity what is it like for the poor people attempting to find employment. Someone somewhere needs to take a look at the system in place and sort it out.

**RUSS PEARCE**  
School Street  
Sedgley

## Talk about rejuvenation amounts to just hot air

I SEE a new housing estate is being built on the site of the old gas works in Constitution Hill, Dudley.

Although I appreciate the need for new housing, I am sure this site could have been better used as a shopping centre or for a well known supermarket, something which would have helped to bring trade back into Dudley.

This would have been ideal as the area is situated right by the Flood Street car parks.

This is another opportunity missed. Time and time again Dudley Council promise to rejuvenate Dudley town centre and then it turns out to be hot air, until Dudley is now officially one of the worst town centres in the country!

This is disgraceful and Dudley Council ought to be ashamed of itself.

**J WESTLEY**  
Summerfield Road  
Dudley

## LETTERS to the Editor

## POST

Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

## E-MAIL

Stourbridge.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Nothing to attract visitors to Dudley

I HAVE to disagree with J Westley who considers a new shopping centre or supermarket would be better than housing built on the old gas works site.

Dudley has too many empty shops now because as the retailers found to their cost, the only people that shop in Dudley are Dudley folk so housing a few more would probably benefit the town. What is there to encourage anyone, shoppers or retailers to come to Dudley, parking is a disgrace, the bus depot is filthy with toilets beyond belief for a public place. There is no train service and the only thing of interest to any outsider is the Zoo.

The only way to put Dudley back on the map is to provide something that will bring people in and a good opportunity for that would be to open up the Hippodrome again and open it day and night. We and thousands of others love a good show but have to travel to Birmingham for the nearest, but there is a good train service, nice clean eating houses so when we go we make a day of it. So many folks could do the same at Dudley if they had something to encourage them. Everyone would benefit, shops, restaurants and taxi services.

**JENNY JAMES, Dock Road, Wordsley**

## Hospital parking charges exorbitant

ONCE again the sick and vulnerable are forced to pay more for their parking at Russells Hall Hospital.

The people who have to attend that establishment have no option but to park there to obtain treatment.

At the best of times it's a blood-pressure-raising experience to park and then to be subject to over-booked clinics where they are virtual prisoners unable to leave the car parks and therefore being forced into exorbitant charges.

We now have the chief executive Paula Clark trolloing out the usual rubbish that they have "not taken this lightly". Please! Don't make your stance worse by lessening the truth. Perhaps Ms Clark can explain why she believes that "this brings the cost of our parking in line with many local trusts" more acceptable?

**STUART FOX**  
Halesowen

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## MEMORY LANE



Christ Church, Lye, pictured in about 1900 before its redesign



The much-changed Christ Church as it looks today



The Rev James Bromley's tomb with the words: "He being dead, yet speaketh."

# Stern minister loved by his flock

*HIS freshness of heart and youthfulness of spirit led him to love and sympathise, especially with young men in whose service he spent himself and for whose sake he counted not his life dear that he might win them to Christ.*

So reads the inscription on a tablet dedicated to the Rev James Bromley in Christ Church, Lye, which this year celebrates its 200th anniversary this year.

The few surviving historical documents from the period suggest the inhabitants were not exactly renowned for their hospitality, and the presence of a clergyman was not a welcome one.

In fact, Mr Bromley's predecessor, the not-so-popular Melsup Hill, is said to have been stoned out of the village by infuriated residents.

At this time the main industries of the area were nail-making, chain-making and coal mining and Mr Bromley arrived in 1844 into this harsh, industrial climate with strong views about how people should go about their daily lives.

Yet his methods clearly struck a chord with the populace. One of his first notable acts was to rescue two miners from drown-

*by Peter Madeley*

ing – a deed that immediately won the hearts of the people of Lye.

Mr Bromley set about the monumental task of attempting to civilise his unruly flock. Parishioners were taken down to the River Stour and shown how to bathe, and taught table manners while sharing food in his home.

The minister was a staunch advocate of abstinence, and despite his frail stature he would take stern measures to enforce this restraint when necessary.

He was known to enter local hosteleries and drag out unsuspecting church members who had reverted to their drunken ways.

## Response

One tale in the memoirs of his successor, the Rev David Robertson, recounts him striking a church member across the back with his cane after seeing him playing the fool in the street.

The young man's response was to visit the priest the next morning and thank him!

Mr Bromley's dedication is probably best exemplified by his daily ritual of rising at 4am to hold services and preach to miners on their way to work. At a time when educa-

tional institutions were a rarity, he also acted as a teacher to the young men of Lye in an effort to stop them from hanging around in the streets.

During the early years of his tenure he increased the capacity of the church, making seating available for more than 1,000 parishioners – a quite remarkable figure when you consider the population of Lye was around 4,000 at the time.

Sadly, Mr Bromley died suddenly in his chair in December 19, 1865 after 21 years of devoted service, leaving a widow and 10 children. He was aged 54.

In a poignant twist, his sermon the previous Sunday was based on the text from Hebrews 11:4 from the King James Bible: "He being dead, yet speaketh."

Those words can still be seen to this day, carved on his tombstone outside the front of Christ Church.

The high esteem with which his congregation held him in was shown by the fact that almost £3,000 was raised for his family, at a time when the living wage was only £240 per year.

This figure would equate to around £175,000 today.

*Thanks to Bob and Sheila Field for their help in researching this article.*



The Rev James Bromley who died in his chair in 1865



Tablet remembering the Rev James Bromley

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## NEWS

# Hundreds say farewell to stab victim Christina



Christina Edkins



Mourners at the funeral service of Christina at Birmingham Cathedral

**THE heartbroken family of a 16-year-old Black Country girl who was knifed to death on a bus said farewell to their "beautiful princess" at her funeral.**

Christina Edkins died from a single stab wound on a double-decker in Birmingham. She was on her way to sit a GCSE mock exam at Leasowes High School in Halesowen on March 7.

Last weekend, hundreds of mourners packed Birmingham Cathedral to say farewell to her.

Her devastated parents Jason and Kathleen Edkins wrote on a card laid next to her coffin: "Our beautiful princess Christina, we will always miss you and you will live in our hearts forever, mummy and daddy xxx."

The couple also wrote a poem to their daughter. It read: "We love you more than anything, more than words can say, you meant the world to us, bringing happiness every day."

"A daughter and sister, always in our heart, you will stay with us forever, even though we have to part."

"A beautiful teenager, a princess through and through, even if you are not here, our thoughts will always be of you."

## Comforted

Paying tribute to Christina, her cousin Stephen Newby said: "We are devastated that she should have been taken away so senselessly and continue to try to come to terms with what has happened."

"We have been overwhelmed and

comforted by the spontaneous reactions of so many people."

"We would like to thank everybody for their support and kindness, in particular the local groups, whose efforts have been so meaningful to us."

Neil Shaw, headteacher of Leasowes High School, closed the school to allow her classmates to attend the service. All buses in the area had also been redirected as a mark of respect to the pupil.

Before the service Dean of Birmingham Very Revd Catherine Ogle said: "We extend heartfelt sympathy and prayers to her family and friends. This death is very hard to bear and we ask all those who mourn the loss of this lovely and bright young woman to join us in prayer."

Philip Simelane, 22, of Walsall, has been charged with Christina's murder.

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## COMPETITION

# Make your day with this Knight meeting

CALLING all knights! Westfield Merry Hill has an exciting offer for aspiring knights across the Midlands in search of their next adventure.

Popular CBeebies character Mike the Knight will be making his way to the centre to tell thrilling tales of his daring deeds, and five families will receive an exclusive meet and greet with their hero.

On top of that, each family will receive a £100 gift card for Merry Hill to have an Easter splurge on toys, eggs, or whatever else takes their fancy!

TV favourite Mike, a 10-year-old knight-in-training, is known to kids for his forays into an enchanting medieval world along with wizard-in-training sister Evie and trusted steed Galahad.

### Activity

He'll be performing a special story-telling show for youngsters on Tuesday, April 9 at Fountain Square, where he'll captivate kids with sagas of his marvellous missions in a world of castles, dragons, Vikings and trolls.

Five lucky families (up to three children and two parents) will gain entrance to the show, and will afterwards have a personal chat with the star and a shopping splurge on the centre.

If readers miss out on Mike, other CBeebies favourites Yojojo and De Li On from Waybuloo will also be stopping by Westfield on Tuesday April 2.

Lots of other half-term activity will be taking place across the centre, from free cupcake bunny sessions in Eat Central to comic and superhero mask making classes, to the opening of Quest's Nerf combat zone and the UK's first Yu-kids soft play area.

More information can be found at <http://uk.westfield.com/merryhill/>



Learn about the daring deeds of Mike The Knight

## HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to meet Mike and receive the £100 gift card, simply answer the following question:

**What is the name of Mike the Knight's horse?**

- Merlin
- Galahad
- Lancelot

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Knight Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, April 4. No cash alternative. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

Contact number needed



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## NEWS

# Homes planned on site of old day care centre

NEW homes are planned to rise from the rubble of a former Stourbridge day care centre which closed seven years ago.

The Audnam Centre in Audnam was closed by Dudley Council in 2006 and then demolished three years ago.

But new life could be breathed into the site after it was put up for sale for development with a price tag of £425,000.

The land has planning permission attached to it for 10 new homes.

Wolverhampton property consultants First City is marketing the site.

Agent Phil McConnachie said: "Despite the site being on the market for only a couple of weeks, we've had good interest."

"It is still early days and we are waiting for the first offer for the site."

## Proposal

The vendor of the site was given planning permission for the homes from Dudley Council in 2010.

A second application is set to be submitted to extend the expiry date for the proposal, which at the moment is June this year.

Approval was given as long as the developer contributes almost £40,000 toward nearby community services.

Mr McConnachie said: "The current owner is not a developer, he bought the site and secured planning permission, but due to the tough economic climate he has not up until now put it up for sale."

"We believe now the market has improved."

The Audnam Centre provided day care services for adults with learning disabilities.

It was declared surplus to requirements by Dudley Council.

## Church marks 200 years



The Rev Simon Falshaw at Christ Church, High St, Lye, with a cross he invited people to decorate as part of a street art event

A CHURCH in Lye is celebrating its 200th anniversary with a street art project.

The project run by Christ Church, in Lye High Street, called 200 Years Together, includes a large canvas depicting the town.

People have been asked to take along photos to be a part of it. The Rev Simon Falshaw said: "We will be out under a

gazebo allowing the public to creatively express themselves. We will have a large display of Lye on canvas and want to see how we can fit ourselves in the picture. We'll be celebrating the community we've been able to be a part of for the last two centuries. You can literally paint yourself into the picture."

People have also been able to decorate a cross to mark the milestone.

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## NEWS

# Hundreds of pay appeals by workers are on hold

APPEALS by hundreds of council workers over plans to cut their pay have been put on hold after senior staff raised concerns.

It has emerged that about eight of 93 appeals heard so far may see Wolverhampton City Council facing potential legal action. The eight are believed to create pay inequalities between men and women – what the council is trying to remove in new pay arrangements known as “single status”.

Under changes announced last year, 5,423 staff will get a pay rise and 1,242 a cut from April 2014. More than 900 appeals have been lodged by those losing out.

Keith Ireland, council strategic director for delivery, said: “The council has addressed its historic pay liabilities and under no circumstances could the council

sanction the creation of any new pay inequalities – this would not only be illegal but would also put the council at enormous financial risk at a time when we are already facing an unprecedented financial challenge.”

“The conclusion of the review, which has the support of independent expert Sue Hastings and the trade unions, is that the appeals process to date has not been conducted with the necessary level of rigour.”

Every council in the country has been forced to draw up new salary scales that pay men and women equivalent wages for equivalent work. Wolverhampton's appeals are suspended until April 22 which means workers querying pay are now not likely to know the outcome until the autumn.

# Cafe plagued by litter

**A CAFE owner says he is at his wits' end over the bags of rubbish being left outside the doors of his business in Brierley Hill and wants action taken.**

Jamie Owen owns Brierley Sausage and has put up with the bags of household waste turning customers off his business since he took it over on December 13, but now says he has had enough and took to Twitter to vent his frustrations over the situation at the premises, in High Street.

He said some of the rubbish came from nearby flats and was dumped in front of his shop on a regular basis.

Mr Owen, aged 23, said: “It's not

very nice having to ask customers to walk past full rubbish bags piled waist-high but there doesn't seem to be much we can do about it.”

What is even more frustrating for Mr Owen is that his cafe has a four-star hygiene rating from the council but the rubbish bags outside make would-be customers think otherwise.

He said: “It's definitely having a knock-on effect on my trade and it just looks awful having people see all that rubbish stacked up outside the cafe.”

“We take hygiene really seriously but since the first day we came here we had problems with the rubbish.”

Mr Owen decided enough was enough and took to Twitter to vent his frustration while he waited for Dudley Council waste collectors to take away

the latest rubbish. His anger was answered with numerous messages of support from locals and relief when the rubbish was finally collected.

Brierley Hill Traders' Association Shane Birch-Bastock said he had heard reports from a few other shops along the town's High Street experiencing similar problems.

He said: “We've had people using other people's bins before and there have been arguments about that.”

Councillor Judy Foster, said: “Following reports of litter in Brierley Hill our crews have collected from the area and officers are investigating the matter. “We take fly-tipping and littering very seriously. People can report littering to: dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk or by calling 0300 555 2345.”

# MP hits at cash lottery

A DUDLEY MP has criticised what he sees as a “post-code lottery” in health funding where wealthy areas of the south receive more per head than the West Midlands.

Labour's Ian Austin said the well-heeled residents of Kensington and Chelsea will get £130 per person per year towards public health spending from next month.

But the Black Country, which has much lower life expectancy rates, gets an average of £64 a year per person.

Dudley will receive £59 per head, Sandwell £66 and Wolverhampton £75.

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## NEWS

# Taxi drivers planning a protest over white cars

**TAXI drivers in Dudley are planning slow drives in protest at councillors who refused a change in policy over car colours.**

They claim the council rules to only allow white private hire vehicles is squeezing their incomes as the colour is more expensive due to its current popularity with celebrities.

However, councillors say a single colour is safer for customers as it makes taxis more recognisable.

Members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association have now voted to stage the slow drives, which will go past Dudley Council House, to highlight their concerns.

But they have decided against a full strike, saying they do not want to cause problems for their customers.

Group chairman Shaz Saleem said the association is also taking legal advice to see if it can mount a challenge against the council's restriction.

He added: "I welcome the move from our members because they want to send out a message to the council that we want to be treated with respect."

by Andrew Turton

"The majority of our members voted against going on strike because if we had gone out then it would have been unfair on the customers who have shown us a lot of support."

"We have many people who rely on us to take them to hospital appointments, shopping, to the airport and other customers who have disabilities for which we provide a service."

"There will be a slow drive organised because all the taxi drivers want to show the council the strength of feeling over this."

More than 1,000 drivers and customers had signed a petition calling for the rules to be changed.

Mr Saleem, who is managing director at Beacon Taxis, in Sedgley and Express Taxis, in Halesowen, said that white cars can cost up to £2,000 extra.

## Samuel's tasty treat



Muffin Break director Heather Teese with 12-year-old Samuel Duffell, who was making muffins

A SCHOOLBOY learned how to bake one of his favourite foods as a special treat.

Samuel Duffell, aged 12, visited staff at Muffin Break, in Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre, to learn how the muffins are made. And it was not long before the youngster, who attends Pedmore Technology College, was having a go at making one of the treats himself.

Samuel had to undergo treatment to remove four teeth at Russells Hall Hospital in January.

After the operation, he was asked by volunteer Steve Field, who runs the Wishing Well charity based at the hospital's children's ward, what he would like as a treat when he got better.

The arrangements were made and the visit took place last week. Samuel's mum Heidi, of Dudley, said he had a wonderful time meeting staff at Muffin Break and seeing how the cakes were made. "He was really excited about going and he had a really great time. He absolutely adores muffins so this was the perfect treat for him. It is really kind of everyone to organise this treat for him."

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One of the world's most successful recording artists, with a record 17 Brit Awards, 10 UK number one albums and seven UK number one singles including Angels and Millennium, the Take That star is expected to perform tracks from his recent album Take the Crown, which went straight in at number one along with its lead single Candy, the fast-selling male artist single of 2012.

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## CLUB NEWS

## Speaker to be Lord Cobham

## WOLLASTON 'E' TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham opened the March meeting to a gathering of 49 members and three visitors.

Apologies were read and a minute's silence observed in memory of long-standing member Beryl Grego.

The meeting incorporated the AGM and the chairman reported that all the present officers were standing again. The committee had been restored to its original number.

The treasurer reported that the guild's finances were in a healthy position.

Secretary Sue Ward gave a full report on the extensive activities enjoyed during the previous year, while vice chairman Hazel Heedham read out the constitution of the guild.

The chairman gave a positive report on the past year, but requested that an injection of new blood was required to prevent the demise of the drama group.

The presentation of the shield to the bowls competition winner, Marion Clarke, was made, followed by the speakers' competition cup, to Sue Ward.

Raffle winners were Jill Tranter and Jill Perry.

The evening's proceedings were concluded with a very competitive quiz.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 9 from 7.30pm and the speaker will be Lord Cobham.

The competition concerns anything connected with Hagley Hall.

## Donation towards orphanage project



Wolverhampton SI president Gail Wedge presents a cheque to Kevin Curtis for £525

FOLLOWING an enjoyable meal, members were entertained by veterinary surgeon Tom Bingham, who spoke of the amusing happenings at his practice.

Tom has been a vet for more than 30 years. he is involved at Monmore Green Greyhound track as well having his own Veterinary Practice in Wolverhampton.

Members were pleased to welcome back

## WOLVERHAMPTON SI

Kevin Curtis from the Footprints Orphanage in Kenya. Members have committed themselves to long term support of the orphanage and a donation of £525 will be used to buy books to support the development of a school attached to the site.

## Federation quiz invitation

THE West Midlands Federation of Townswomen's Guilds are holding their annual quiz on Monday June 3 at Stourbridge Football Club from 7pm.

All guilds within the West Midlands Federation are invited to enter the quiz. Teams consisting of four

## WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION

guild members may enter. This event has been organised by Jean Williams.

The next event will be the National AGM being held in Harrogate on June 12 The

guest speakers will be announced at a later date.

Most guilds within the Federation area are recruiting for new members. Anyone interested is asked to ring Federation secretary Hazel Butt on 01299 250957 for any information about guilds in your locality.

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## NEWS

# Words still don't come easy for top comic Dave

by Andrew Turton

IT'S been a roller-coaster ride for a funnyman who rode the crest of a wave as a star and writer of the hit television comedy *Phoenix Nights*.

But life on the road making audiences up and down the country roll in the aisles with laughter is still the bread and butter for Dave Spikey.

Spikey's *Words Don't Come Easy* tour is in its fourth incarnation, but fresh material has been penned by the 61-year-old Lancashire stand-up ahead of shows in Dudley and Cannock.

### Differences

"I started working out my own dates and venues as I was sick of doing Torquay one night and Inverness the next and going to the same places all the time," he said.

"And when I started working on it myself I realised there was so many other venues and theatres I'd never been to which is why I'm really looking forward to coming to Dudley and to Cannock.

"Geographically you find there are differences between the audiences which is great for me and something I really enjoy.

"I've done gigs in Wolverhampton at the Wulfrun Hall and the Glee Club in Birmingham as well which is one of my favourites so I like it around here.

"I've tried to structure my tours so I'll do a few weeks, then take some time off to recharge the batteries and it also helps me to write new material."



Comedian Dave Spikey's tour will be coming to the region during April

Spikey worked for many years as a biomedical scientist in the haematology laboratory at Bolton General Hospital. But it was his portrayal of down-on-his-luck club compere Jerry St Clair at the Bolton club Phoenix Nights set his star rising leading to national fame.

lowed as well as well-received stand up tours. He says his tour name was inspired by the quirky English language often tied up in clichés, tongue-twisters and well-worn phrases.

Spikey is playing at Dudley Concert Hall on April 13 and Cannock's Prince of Wales Theatre on April 19.

Visit [www.davespikey.co.uk](http://www.davespikey.co.uk) for ticket details.

star **extra** TRAVEL

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## Shop staff terrified by raiders

MASKED robbers threatened members of staff at a Halesowen supermarket before stealing cash and cigarettes.

The three thieves targeted the Tesco Express store, in Stourbridge Road, just before 11pm on March 18.

The terrified staff were forced into a security office and threatened by the three men, who wore scarves over their faces.

The robbers stole cash and cigarettes before fleeing in a silver Audi estate car.

Two of the robbers were white and the other was black, say police.

Anyone with information can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

# Council's freeze on rents is welcomed by market traders

**TRADERS have welcomed plans to freeze rents for market stalls in Dudley for the second year in a row, as a boost for their businesses.**

Council bosses have announced that fees for Dudley Market will be kept at this year's prices.

It is hoped the move will encourage more traders to take up pitches. Regeneration councillor Shaikat Ali said the authority had decided to freeze the rates to help traders who were struggling during the tough economic climate.

And Dudley Market Traders' Association Chairman Len Lenihan welcomed the move, saying: "We are pleased that they have made this decision - it is applauded by the traders."

"With the present state of the economy, I think that this price freeze is justified, especially considering the footfall in the town."

Councillor Ali said: "We want to support traders as much as we can and also encourage new traders to consider using the market as a place to set up a new business."

"We are also committed to helping traders by exploiting the market's full

potential. Our market transformation plans will breathe new life into the town and encourage more people from the borough and beyond to visit Dudley, helping to increase footfall."

Rates per day for the traders range from £9.18 to £32.66.

### Canopies

There are 10 different levels of rent, and more is charged for weekends than weekdays.

Traders also have to pay a surcharge of between £2 and £3.50 each day, and £5 at Christmas.

The rent freeze comes as council officials draw up plans for £6 million revamp of the market. Among the ideas are new stalls with canopies and removing the ageing toilet block to create a view of the town's castle.

Dudley Council is also working on proposals to run specialist Sunday and evening markets.

The borough's regeneration chief, Councillor Shaikat Ali, said: "By keeping rents down we're supporting both existing and potential new traders."

The market is open Monday to Saturday.

## £15,000 zoo project completed

A £15,000 project to improve a reptile house at Dudley Zoo has been completed and will be officially opened.

Individual enclosures have been re-modelled and timber flooring and wall cladding. A new glazed entrance has also been built. Visitors will get their first look at the revamped house on Saturday when it is opened by ecologist and TV presenter Mike Dilger at 2pm.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: "While the refurbishment has been carried out for the animals' benefit, it will also make the reptile house more attractive to visitors."

## Punching for charity



Back from left, coach and treasurer Steve Gough with boxers, Ricky Summer, Luke Paddock and Ryan Aston and, front, event organiser Mitch Gough

A DUDLEY boxing club is hoping for a knockout event when it offers amateurs the chance to get in the ring with professionals to raise money for charity.

The Priory Boxing Club is hoping to raise £1,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support when it hosts its sponsored 'Sparathon' on April 27.

Organiser Mitch Gough, whose father Steve and uncle Paul run the club, said: "Every year we put on charity events to raise awareness of the gym and to raise money for various causes."

"This charity is very close to Paul's heart as they supported his parents when they were diagnosed with cancer. We want to get people involved and raise money for a good cause. Obviously the lads aren't going to knock their heads off. We want to raise money, not scare them."

The professionals booked to take part at the Priory Road club are Ryan Aston, Tommy Ghent, Ricky Summers, Luke Paddock, Lance Brookes and Ryan Corrigan.

Prizes will be available for the top fundraisers. Mr Gough said they could include signed memorabilia. A ticket to fight another amateur costs £20 and to fight a professional £30. Both prices cover coaching and equipment, as well as a commemorative Fight Cancer Priory Park T-shirt.

To book, visit [www.prioryparkboxing.co.uk](http://www.prioryparkboxing.co.uk).

## Detectives vow to track down rioters

DETECTIVES have vowed to keep trying to track down the rioters who caused chaos on the streets of the West Midlands in 2011.

More than 800 people have been arrested since rioters ran amok in Wolverhampton, West Bromwich and Birmingham, smashing up shops and attacking police officers.

But a senior officer said detectives would persist in the hunt for those who had not yet been caught, and warned the thugs that took part that they should not sleep easy.

Raju Miah, aged 20, was the latest to be apprehended by officers. A judge at Birmingham Crown Court sentenced him to 22 months behind bars.

The court was told he shattered seven windows in a failed attempt to smash his way into jeweller Watches of Switzerland, in New Street, Birmingham, on the evening of August 9, 2011.

The mechanic, of Weatheroak Road in Sparkhill, broke into a newsagent in Newhall Street earlier that night.

Miah admitted burglary and attempted burglary and was sentenced to 12 and 10 months, respectively, in prison.

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# What's On! Stourbridge

## Voice of an angel in excellent show

**Phantom of the Opera, B-ham Hippodrome**  
ANGEL of Music she certainly is. Katie Hall, as Christine, in this stunning performance of Phantom of the Opera just stole the show.

Her performance was mesmerising, showing not only does she have a superb voice she can also act.

Birmingham Hippodrome was packed, and not surprisingly, once word gets out of how good this is there is likely to be a scramble for tickets. It runs until May 4 so book up, this is definitely one not to miss.

Performances from Earl Carpenter as the Phantom and Carlotta, the ousted star, were excellent.

### Amusing

There were some amusing interludes as the Phantom sent notes to various cast members and high drama as the huge chandelier started to "drop" above the audience but the real highlight was the spectacular voice and passion shown by Kate which literally made the spine tingle.

The story, which by now must be well known, is of Erik, who is a musical genius but whose face is horribly disfigured and hides from the world in the dungeons of the Paris Opera House.

He falls in love with a young singer, Christine and starts to coach her to become a perfect singer.

And he certainly did a very good job.

Sue Attwater

# Northern soul Lisa is on her way for a comeback

**SHE'S been all around the world but now Lancashire soul queen Lisa Stansfield is on her way back to the UK's concert halls.**

The Rochdale girl who lit up the early '90s with her distinctive kiss curl, soulful vocals and mega-hit All Around The World, will be reconnecting with her Midlands fans at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sunday, June 16.

That comes the day after what is set to be a triumphant homecoming at Salford's Lowry Theatre.

The double Brit Award-winner, who sold 20 million albums and topped the charts in 12 countries, is putting the finishing touches to her seventh album, following a handful of acclaimed low-key gigs last year.

She is also due to have a starring role alongside Steve Coogan in a new British movie this year, Northern Soul. It's about the 1970s dance music scene that was hugely popular in the North and Midlands.

### Break

For the past seven years Lisa has had a break from the music scene but the 46-year-old is now keeping true to her word in hit song Someday (I'm Coming Back).

She's not the only female hit-maker back on the road. Former Yazoo star Alison Moyet returns with album The Minutes in May and a Symphony Hall concert on October 28.



Concert - Lisa Stansfield



Michael Ball had a hit in 1989 with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Changes Everything

## A perfect song for Michael

WEST End star and crooner Michael Ball will perform a new song by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Leslie Bricusse when he appears in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Saturday, April 27.

The Perfect Song is the first collaboration between the songwriting giants. Lloyd Webber has written many of the most successful musicals of the past four decades. Bricusse's classics include The Candy Man, Goldfinger and What Kind Of Fool Am I?

The new song features on Michael Ball's latest album Both Sides Now and has been released as a single. Also featured is Fight The Fight, from Tim Rice and Stuart Brayson's forthcoming musical From Here To Eternity.

## Scottish rockers turn out topless

**Biffy Clyro, LG Arena, Birmingham**  
ONLY Revolutions may have been Biffy Clyro's fifth studio album, but it propelled them into the spotlight - and since then the wheel of fortune has continued to turn for the Scottish rockers.

And, they proved Opposites attract as their new tour, taken from the name of album number six, drew the crowds to the second city.

There was the warning that the trio may go topless - and they duly did throughout the whole set, from the opening Different People to the finale of Mountains, with that Matt Cardle classic thrown in between, along with some older material.

There's been debate over the name, and they claim to be uncool, but there's no doubt they put on a rocking show. In just the second performance of what is their biggest arena tour to date, the likes of Bubbles and Who's Got a Match? had the whole crowd bouncing, while lead vocalist Simon Neil threw in solos including Machines and God and Satan for good measure.

### Mark Shipp

## Toyah's hormones

FORMER punk pop queen Toyah returns to her native West Midlands as a comic actress. She takes the lead role in Hormonal Housewives at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on April 2 and 3.

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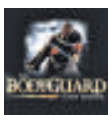
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# What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 30.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

### CHOICE



Jenna-Louise Coleman

**Doctor Who**  
**BBC1, 6.15pm**  
If you're a Doctor Who fan, 2013 is going to be a big year. November 23rd marks the 50th anniversary of the show, and the Beeb is pulling out all the stops to celebrate it. But we have eight months to wait until we see the fruits of their labours. Until then, we'll have to make do with the second half of season seven, which will see Jenna-Louise Coleman reprise her role as Clara, who turns up this time in modern-day London to help the Doctor defeat wi-fi-dwelling villains who steal people's souls. He then thinks she'd make the perfect companion.

### BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Richard Hammond's Secret Service. **2.40** Film: Freaky Friday. (2003) **4.10** Final Score. **5.10** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.55** BBC News: Regional News. Weather.

**6.15** **Doctor Who.** The Time Lord returns for eight new adventures, the first of which sees him joining new companion Clara to tackle a wi-fi menace in London. Matt Smith and Jenna-Louise Coleman star.

**7.00** **The Voice UK.** New series. Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates return with the all-singing, choir-spinning talent contest, with coaches Tom Jones, Jessie J, Will.i.am and Danny O'Donoghue.

**8.35** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

**9.25** **Casualty.** Tom helps a young man with a troubled home life, while Jamie treats a junior boxer who reminds him of his difficult past. Tom becomes jealous when another doctor asks Sam out.

**10.15** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** Match of the Day. Including highlights of Sunderland v Manchester United. National Lottery Update.

**12.05** The Football League Show. **2.25** Film: (BST) The Uninvited. (2009) **3.50** Weatherview. **3.55** BBC News.

### BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **7.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **12.30** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **1.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **2.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **2.30** Mastermind. (R) **3.00** University Challenge. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.15** The Great British Bake Off Easter Masterclass. (R) **5.15** Easter from King's. A service from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge.

**6.30** **The Good Life.** Margo's new windbreak causes problems for Tom and Barbara. (R)

**7.00** **Richard Briers: A Tribute.** Friends and colleagues celebrate the life of the actor, who died last month and whose 50-year career encompassed TV, stage, film and radio. Ever Decreasing Circles and the documentary All About The Good Life can be seen tomorrow from 6.30pm.

**8.00** **Each: A Passionate Life.** John Eliot Gardiner examines the life of the German composer, discovering he was a complex artist, a warm and convivial family man and a rebellious spirit.

**9.30** **QI.** With Julia Zemerio, Sue Perkins and Ross Noble. (R)

**10.00** **Life's Too Short Special.** One-off edition of the spoof documentary, starring Warwick Davis.

**11.00** Film: **Anita & Me.** (2002) Comedy drama, starring Chandee Uppal.

**12.30** Film: **Brooklyn Rules.** (2007) **3.00** (BST) This Is BBC Two.

### ITV

**6.00** CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Animals. (R) **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.25** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.25** Dinner Date. **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.40** Countrywise. (R) **12.55** Film: March of the Penguins. (2005) **2.20** The Chase. **3.20** Film: The Incredible Hulk. (2008) **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

**6.00** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of comical clips filmed by viewers on their camcorders and mobile phones, featuring a quad bike with a mind of its own and Peter Pan taking a tumble. (R)

**7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Geordie duo recruit Simon Cowell to play an undercover prank on Piers Morgan, and Michael Subtle performs at the end of the show.

**8.20** **The Cube.** A legal secretary from Essex and a young Welsh father try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000.

**9.20** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** With James Nesbitt and Depeche Mode.

**10.20** ITV News: Weather.

**10.35** Film: **300.** (2006) Fantasy adventure, starring Gerard Butler.

**12.40** Jackpot247. **4.00** (BST) Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **4.50** ITV Nightscreen.

### CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British Rallycross. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.50** Frasier. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. **4.25** Come Dine with Me. **4.55** Come Dine with Me. **5.20** Come Dine with Me. **5.50** Channel 4 Racing: The Dubai World Cup. **6.35** Channel 4 News.

**6.55** **Easter Eggs Live.** Mark Evans presents a week of live programmes following the hatchlings of a variety of creatures.

**7.00** **Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses.** Three people in Wandsworth, south London, who are eager to attract buyers for their flats, look around one another's properties for improvement ideas.

**8.00** **Walking Through History.** New series. Tony Robinson embarks on expeditions through some of Britain's most historic landscapes, starting with a 40-mile walk along the Derwent Valley in the Peak District.

**9.00** **Labyrinth.** A modern-day PhD graduate and a 17-year-old from the 13th century experience an adventure that intertwines their lives. Concludes tomorrow.

**11.05** **Big Fat Quiz of the 80s.** Jimmy Carr grills five celebrities on the 1980s. (R)

**12.40** Film: **Happy, Happy.** (2010) **3.10** (BST) Hollyoaks. **5.15** Countdown. (R)

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.10** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.45** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Inside Hollywood. **11.15** The Gadget Show: Future Special. (R) **12.15** Whale Adventure with Nigel Marven. (R) **1.15** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **2.15** Film: The Big Country. (1958) **5.30** Film: Guns of the Magnificent Seven. (1969)

**7.25** **5 News Weekend.**

**7.30** **CSI: NY.** Stella, Flack and Lindsay suspect a joke-shop owner known as Laughing Larry was somehow complicit in the death of an extravagant internet entrepreneur killed by an exploding cigar. (R)

**8.15** **NCIS.** Part two of two. Agent Callen goes undercover, Tony questions Ziva's loyalty to the team, and a psychologist uncovers the truth about the relationship between Gibbs and Agent Macy. (R)

**9.15** **NCIS.** The team works alongside the FBI to catch the killer of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent who was murdered during a poker game at the Secretary of the Navy's house. (R)

**10.15** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A mutilated corpse is found in a park.

**11.10** **Law & Order: Criminal Intent.** The team is faced with a lengthy list of potential suspects while investigating the murder of a magazine editor known for his abrasive personality.

**12.10** **SuperCasino.** **4.00** (BST) Nick's Quest. (R) **4.25** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

### DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D **7.15** Dragons: Gift of the Night Fury **7.35** Shrek: Once Upon a Time **8.35** Film: Shrek the Third (2007) **10.00** Live at the Apollo **11.05** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad!

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Kimbolton Cabinet **7.30** The Art of the Vikings: Secret Knowledge **8.00** Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork **9.00** Classic Albums **9.50** Film: The Secret in Their Eyes (2009)

**ITV2**  
**4.10** Film: Back to the Future (1985) **6.30** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **8.20** Film: Uncle Buck (1989) **10.20** Celebrity Juice: The Big Reunion Special **11.05** Plebs

**ITV3**  
**2.35** Film: On the Buses (1971) **4.25** Film: Mutiny on the Buses (1972) **6.10** Film: Holiday on the Buses (1973) **8.00** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** A Touch of Frost

**ITV4**  
**1.20** Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **4.30** Film: The Way West (1967) **7.00** TT Legends Review **8.00** River Monsters **8.00** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **11.00** Film: Fire Down Below (1997)

**E4**  
**3.05** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **5.00** Youngers **5.30** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Rules of Engagement **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** 50 Greatest Plastic Surgery Shockers **11.15** Big Bang Theory

**Film4**  
**3.05** The Spy Next Door (2010) **4.55** My Neighbour Totoro (1989) **6.45** Entrapment (1999) **9.00** GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **11.15** The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2009)

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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 31.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



**Donald Campbell: Speed King** BBC2, 8pm  
When it comes to daredevils, few are as celebrated as Donald Campbell. While the likes of Evel Knievel may grab the attention, Campbell retains a place in the UK public's hearts thanks to his good old-fashioned stiff upper lip, determination and ambition. His story is retold in this gripping documentary, from his childhood when he would witness his father Malcolm's daredevil attempts to break land and water speed records during the 1920s and 1930s, to his own career and eventual death at Coniston Water in 1967.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast** 8.15 Match of the Day. (R) **10.00 Live Easter Sunday** from Paisley Abbey. **11.00 Urbi et Orbi**. (R) **11.35 Countryfile**. (R) **12.30 BBC News**; Weather. **12.40 Bargain Hunt**. (R) **1.25 Escape to the Country**. **1.55 Film**: Madagascar. (2005) **3.15 The Boat Race 2013**. **5.25 Songs of Praise**.  
**6.00 Deadly 60 on a Mission**. Steve Backshall searches for lethal animals in Mexico, encountering a bull shark, the speedy sailfish, an army of predatory bats and a dark cave of hanging serpents.  
**6.30 BBC News**; Regional News; Weather.  
**7.00 Countryfile**. Ellie Harrison is at St Michael's Mount in Cornwall, where spring comes early, and presents archive items including searches for ancient orchards and Britain's largest land mammal.  
**8.00 Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire, where items include a Victorian dog collar, early royal relics and a painting of a Second World War battle. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.  
**9.00 The Village**. New series. Epic drama charting life in an English village across 100 years as seen through the eyes of one resident living from boyhood to old age.  
**10.00 BBC News**; Regional News; Weather.  
**10.25 Match of the Day 2**. Aston Villa v Liverpool.  
**11.15 Regional Programme**.  
**11.45 Film**: House of Sand and Fog. (2003)  
**1.45 Weatherview**. **1.50 BBC News**.

## BBC2

**6.00 This Is BBC Two**. **6.05 Film**: Journey into Fear. (1943) **7.15 Film**: One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing. (1975) **8.45 Gardeners' World**. (R) **9.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening**. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites**. **11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread**. (R) **12.00 Great British Menu**. (R) **1.00 Great British Menu**. (R) **2.00 EastEnders**. (R) **3.55 Secrets of Our Living Planet**. (R) **4.55 Film**: Galaxy Quest. (1999)  
**6.30 Ever Decreasing Circles**. Martin's cricket team is a man short. (R)  
**7.00 All About The Good Life**. The story of the 1970s sitcom about a couple who opted out of the rat race and turned their suburban back garden into a smallholding. (R)  
**8.00 Donald Campbell: Speed King**. Profile of the man who set eight world speed records on water and land in the 1950s and 1960s, using rare archive footage and first-hand testimonies of those who knew him.  
**9.00 Toughest Place to Be a Bus Driver - The Return**. London bus driver Josh West goes back to the chaotic streets of Manila in the Philippines, where he spent a fortnight learning to drive a "jeepney" two years ago.  
**10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Law and Order**. A selection from the show's archives on the theme of law and order.  
**10.30 It's Kevin**. An attempt is made to change the course of history.  
**11.00 Film**: Enigma. (2001)  
**12.50 Sign Zone**: A Very British Wedding. (R) **1.50 Holly City**. (R) **2.50 This Is BBC Two**.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV**: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25 The Hive**. (R) **6.35 The Hive**. (R) **6.45 Dino Dan**. (R) **7.00 Dino Dan**. (R) **7.10 Animals**. (R) **7.20 Animals**. (R) **7.25 Bookaboo**. **7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles**. (R) **8.05 Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil**. **8.15 Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil**. **8.30 Almost Naked Animals**. (R) **8.45 Almost Naked Animals**. (R) **12.00 The Aquabats Super Show**. **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA**. (R) **10.15 Dickinson's Real Deal**. (R) **11.15 All Star Family Fortunes**. (R) **12.00 ITV News**; Weather. **12.10 Film**: King Ralph. (1991) **2.00 Doc Martin**. (R) **3.00 Food Glorious Food**. (R) **4.00 Film**: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. (2008)  
**6.05 Regional Programme**; Weather.  
**6.15 ITV News**; Weather.  
**6.30 Andrew Lloyd Webber: 40 Musical Years**. Michael Ball hosts an entertainment special in which stars including Nicole Scherzinger, Kimberley Walsh, Melanie C, Il Divo and Mylene Klass perform the composer's greatest hits.  
**8.00 Foyle's War**. The detective's investigation into the death of a nameless Russian leads to a mysterious military facility run by a respected colonel with an impeccable war record.  
**10.00 Perspectives: Sheila Hancock - The Brilliant Bronte Sisters**. The actress explores the work of the 19th-century literary family.  
**11.00 ITV News**; Weather.  
**11.15 Premiership Rugby Union**.  
**12.15 The Store**. **2.15 Monk**. (R) **3.00 ITV Nightscreen**. **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show**. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00 The Treacle People**. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs**. (R) **6.35 The Hoobs**. (R) **7.00 Film**: Barry. (2006)  
Animated comedy with the voice of Kevin James. **8.30 Frasier**. (R) **9.00 Frasier**. (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch**. **12.00 The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **12.20 The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **12.45 The Simpsons**. (R) **1.15 The Simpsons**. (R) **1.45 Film**: True Grit. (1969) Western, starring John Wayne. **4.15 Deal or No Deal**. **5.20 Channel 4 News**. **5.45 4thought.tv**. **5.50 Film**: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. (2010) Premiere. Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley.  
**8.00 Easter Eggs Live**. In the first of two hour-long editions over the Easter weekend, Mark Evans follows the hatchings of a variety of creatures the programme has been following for the past week.  
**9.00 Labyrinth**. Conclusion. Ancient and modern-day conspiracies are unearthed revolving around three hidden books that hold the secret of the Holy Grail.  
**11.05 Film: 28 Weeks Later**. (2007) Britain is repopulated after a virus that turns everyone into bloodthirsty killers dies out, only for the infection to return. Horror sequel, with Robert Carlyle and Rose Byrne.  
**12.55 Film: The Pool**. (2007) Premiere. Drama, starring Venkatesh Chavan. **2.30 Southland**. Police drama, starring Benjamin McKenzie. (R) **3.10 Come Dine with Me**. Dinner party challenge from Wakefield. (R) **4.05 Deal or No Deal**. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) **5.00 Countdown**. With Richard Arnold. **5.45 Baking Mad** with Eric Lanlard. The pâtissier opens a pop-up shop in a bar. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!**: Peppa Pig. **6.05 Mio Mao**. (R) **6.10 Fifi and the Flowerpots**. (R) **6.20 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures**. (R) **6.25 The Mr Men Show**. (R) **6.40 Olive the Ostrich**. (R) **6.45 Abby's Flying Fairy School**. (R) **6.55 Roobarb and Custard Too**. (R) **7.00 Bananas in Pyjamas**. (R) **7.15 Animal Antics**. (R) **7.20 Noddy in Toyland**. (R) **7.30 Little Princess**. (R) **7.45 Thomas & Friends**. (R) **9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**. (R) **9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus**. **9.30 Roary the Racing Car**. (R) **9.45 Jelly Jam**. (R) **10.00 Power Rangers Samurai**. (R) **10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold**. **11.00 Cowboy Builders**. (R) **12.00 Film**: Tinker Bell. (2008) **1.30 Film**: The Goonies. (1985) **3.40 Film**: Miss Congeniality. (2000) **5.50 5 News Weekend**. **5.55 Film**: Wild Wild West. (1999)  
**7.55 Film: Ghost Rider**. (2007) A curse turns a motorcycle stuntman into a demonic skeletal biker who must take evil souls to Hell. Fantasy thriller based on the comic-book, starring Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes.  
**10.00 Person of Interest**. Reese is reminded of his final mission for the CIA when an undercover assignment to protect a security guard takes an unexpected turn.  
**10.55 Film: SWAT**. (2003) A disgraced cop redeems himself by joining an elite unit charged with guarding a notorious prisoner. Action thriller, with Samuel L. Jackson.  
**1.10 SuperCasino**. **4.00 Nick's Quest**. (R) **4.50 Country Secrets**. (R) **5.00 Iana's Helpline**. (R) **5.10 The Milkshake! Show**. (R) **5.35 Thomas & Friends**. (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car**. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00 The Voice UK** 8.35 Film: Shrek Forever After (2010) **10.00 In the Flesh** **11.00 Family Guy** BBC Four  
**7.00 Film**: The Road: A Story of Life and Death (2012) **8.15 Top of the Pops**: The Story of 1978 **9.05 Motor Racing at the BBC**: That Petrol Emotion **9.35 Michael Rodgers: Bad 25** **11.45 Nile Rodgers: The Hitmaker** ITV2  
**3.45 You've Been Framed!** Calendar Special **4.45 You've Been Framed!** Kids **5.30 Film**: Peter Pan (2003) **7.40 Film**: Back to the Future Part III (1990) **10.00 Only Way Is Essex** **10.50 Big Rich Texas** **11.50 Celebrity Juice**: The Big Reunion Special ITV3  
**2.25 Film**: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **7.15 Film**: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) **6.05 Film**: The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **8.00 Film**: Intolerable Cruelty (2003) **10.00 A Touch of Frost** ITV4  
**10.45 Live British Touring Car Championship** **6.00 The Professionals** **7.00 World of Sport**: 1970s **8.00 Premiership Rugby Union** **9.00 An Audience with Billy Connolly** **10.10 Film**: Born to Raise Hell (2010) E4  
**4.00 Revenge** **5.00 New Girl** **5.30 The Mindy Project** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory** **7.00 Film**: Grease (1978) **9.15 Film**: Black Trinity (2004) **11.30 The Body Shocking Show** Film4  
**3.20 Big Business** (1988) **5.15 Arietty** (2010) **7.10 City of Ember** (2008) **9.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still** (2008) **11.00 The Girl Who Played with Fire** (2009)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

##### A Bunch of Amateurs, BBC2, 10pm

A washed-up Hollywood star is delighted when his agent arranges for him to play King Lear, only to be horrified to learn he has been signed up for an English amateur dramatics group's charity production. Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Samantha Bond. (2008)

##### Executive Decision, Channel 5, 10pm

Terrorists armed with the world's most lethal nerve gas take over an airliner and demand a massive ransom – and only a crack team of intelligence experts can stop them before they carry out their threat to destroy Washington, DC. Action thriller, starring Kurt Russell, Steven Seagal, Halle Berry and John Leguizamo. (1996)

#### TUESDAY

##### Pottergeist, BBC1, 12.20am

A family experiences strange events after invisible phantoms invade their home. At first the ghosts seem harmless, simply making things move by themselves. But before long, they spirit away the five-year-old daughter to their own plane of existence, forcing her parents to call on paranormal researchers to find their missing child. Horror, with JoBeth Williams. (1982)



Insomnia, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Insomnia, BBC1, 11.05pm

A detective is sent to Alaska to investigate a murder during a month when the sun does not set. Sleep deprivation starts to take its toll, and he accidentally shoots his partner dead. He tries to cover it up, but the criminal they were hunting has seen everything and blackmails the cop into helping him escape justice. Thriller directed by Christopher Nolan, starring Al Pacino, Robin Williams and Hilary Swank. (2002)

#### THURSDAY

##### The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou, BBC1, 11.30pm

An eccentric marine expert sets out in search of a legendary shark that ate his old friend and shipmate. Unfortunately the voyage is riddled with problems, including a man claiming to be his long-lost son, a pursuing pirate crew and a rival oceanographer. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, starring Bill Murray. (2004)

#### FRIDAY

##### King Kong, ITV, 10.35pm

A maverick film-maker and his cast and crew board a ship bound for a mysterious island – but when they arrive, a giant gorilla carries off their leading lady. As the crew makes its way through the temning jungle to find her, the director concocts a dangerous scheme to capture the great ape and take it back to New York. Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, starring Naomi Watts and Jack Black. (2005)

### Pick of the Week

## No cause for celebration for the returning Doctor

If you're a Doctor Who fan, 2013 is going to be a very big year indeed.

November 23rd marks the 50th anniversary of the science fiction show, and the Beeb is pulling out all the stops to celebrate it.

In the past, such events have been marked by special editions featuring previous actors to have played the Doctor, but show-runner Steven Moffat is giving away as little information this time around as he can get away with.

Instead, he explains it's in 3D (which we already knew anyway) and is going to be bigger and better than ever before. Frankly, if he'd said anything but that, we'd think he'd lost his marbles – OF COURSE it's going to be amazing. But no matter how much we beg, Moffat won't budge: what he will talk about (a bit anyway) are the new episodes heading our way.

We're about to see the second half of season seven, which began last autumn when Amy and Rory were still aboard the Tardis; seems a long time ago, doesn't it?

They're now gone and the Doctor has been moping about the universe, although he did stop off in Victorian London to meet Clara, a fast-talking quick-witted young woman who seemed to die at the end of the Christmas special. But did she?

Apparently not, because here she is, large as life again and living in modern-day London.

In this week's episode, she helps the Time Lord defeat wi-fi-dwelling villains who steal people's souls. He then thinks she'd make the perfect companion, but she isn't so sure. Obviously he twists her arm because she's played by Jenna-Louise Colman, who we've already been told will be a regular in the series.

Moffat was instrumental in casting Colman, and he's pleased he did. "I think she fits in perfectly, brings a whole new side to Matt to the fore, and she's sort of charming, flirtatious, lovely, and is discovering all those things about Doctor Who for the first time that we all know and making them therefore brand new."

"She's also, I think, a genuine star."

But what else can we expect to see over the coming weeks?

"We've got returning monsters, we've got Ice Warriors and the Cybermen coming and some zombies creatures as well," says Moffat. "We've got all of that and we've got a huge range of settings - we've got under the sea, we've got a fantastic alien planet, an adventure actually on the rings of the planet."

"We've got Victorian Yorkshire, which I think everyone wants to see. And the Doctor's biggest secret, revealed for real. We're not kidding, we are actually going to do it, we're going to reveal his biggest secret."

Hmm... at last, a revelation of sorts - can't wait for that. But what can it be? The Doctor's real name? What happened to his long-lost granddaughter Susan, abandoned in London in 2150AD?

Knowing Moffat, it's all just a tease. But we'll be gripped, like the rest of the nation, desperate to find out what happens next in the Doctor's amazing adventures in space and time...



Matt Smith stars in Doctor Who, Saturday, BBC1, 6.15pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

##### Coronation Street ITV, 7.30pm

We used to have Karl pegged as a feckless wastrel – not a man you'd want to rely on, but not actively dangerous. However, by setting fire to The Rovers and leaving Sunita to die there, he's moved up into the soap villain division. To make matters worse, Stella is still under the impression he's actually a hero as she's discharged from hospital, and insists he's welcome to stay at Number 13 with her. And with the doctor warning Dey that they might have to switch off Sunita's life-support machine, it looks like no one is going to be able to expose Karl for the deluded arsonist he is.

##### Jonathan Creek: 'The Clue of the Savant's Thumb' BBC1, 8.30pm

Before Jonathan Creek came along, most people thought Alan Davies was just another young comedian. But thanks to his performance in David Renwick's hit series about a crime-solving magician's creative consultant, that all changed. Creek became hugely popular, and fans are always desperate for a new run. One isn't forthcoming, so they'll have to make do with this new one-off – and mighty fine it is too. Subtitled The Clue of the Savant's Thumb, it reveals what happens when Creek and fellow investigator Joey Ross become involved in a complex case at a girls' boarding school involving a secret society and what appears to be supernatural events. Sheridan Smith returns as Joey, while Rik Mayall, Joanna Lumley and Nigel Planer guest star.

#### TUESDAY

##### The Great British Sewing Bee BBC2, 8pm

Whether it's the current economic climate encouraging us to make do and mend, the vogue for all things vintage, or the fact that you can do it while watching the telly, sewing has been making something of a comeback. In fact, it's so popular, the brains behind the Great British Bake-Off have decided to base a new series around it. Presented by Claudia Winkleman, it sees eight needlepersons competing to be named Britain's best amateur sewer. In the Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood roles will be May Martin from the WI and Savile Row tailor Patrick Grant – expect 'puckering seam lines' to become the new soggy bottoms.

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Hillsborough: Never Forgotten BBC2, 9pm

Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough Stadium will always be known as the place at which 94 Liverpool supporters died on April 15, 1989, while attending an FA Cup semi-final match between their team and Nottingham Forest – two more fans died later. This documentary is being broadcast to mark the first anniversary of the Hillsborough Disaster since the Hillsborough Independent Review published its findings. It's a poignant and thought-provoking film in which survivors, relatives of the

deceased and those who tended to the victims on the day describe how, for over 20 years, they or their loved ones were blamed for what happened until the Bishop of Liverpool, leader of the team that uncovered the truth, revealed what really happened.

##### Scott & Bailey ITV, 9pm

The north west's answer to Cagney and Lacey have returned for a new series that once again finds them juggling their complicated personal lives with their demanding jobs. However, some viewers may initially find it slightly difficult to sympathise with DC Rachel Bailey (Suranne Jones) who in the months since

we last saw her has married handsome fellow copper Sean (Sean Maguire). He's devoted to her, mood swings and all – so why is Rachel already feeling like she's made a huge mistake? At least DC Janet Scott (Lesley Sharp) is going to get a big distraction from her complicated love life.

#### THURSDAY

##### The Intern Channel 4, 9pm

Ex-Drags' Den star Hilary Devey hosts this new series in which talented and ambitious



Jonathan Creek: 'The Clue of the Savant's Thumb', Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

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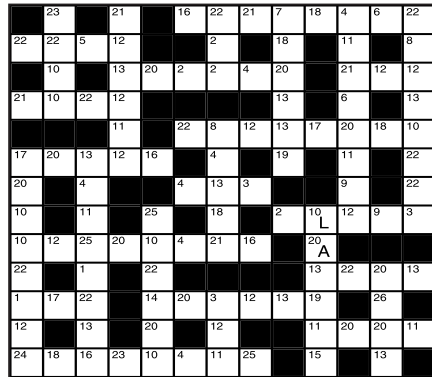
# What's On!

## Brain Gym

No.214

### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	E	H	X	D	B	Z	N	Q	M	V	P	I	A
2	Y	K	L	C	G	F	W	R	S	U	O	T	J

### Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

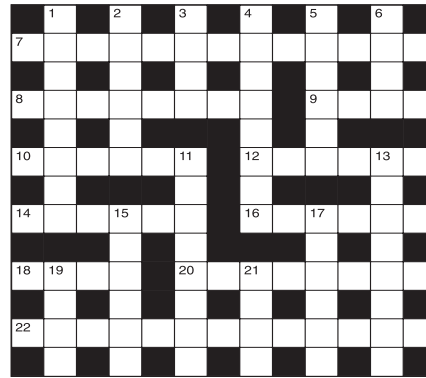
#### Cryptic Clues:

##### Across

7. Practise putting on a glove? (3,4,4,2)
8. Such lovers may make maids err! (8)
9. Water thoroughly (4)
10. Sailor despatched and not here (6)
12. Emphasise, in a manner of speaking (6)
14. An occasion when spirits are called for (6)
16. I am after it in brown or reddish-yellow (6)
18. Country in which hope runs high (4)
20. Goes without saying (8)
22. He digs into the past (13)

##### Down

1. A bleared version probably isn't (8)
2. God that is around for curing purposes (6)
3. Grant out of misplaced enthusiasm (4)
4. All those required for a full board meeting (5,3)
5. Result of a questionable action? (6)
6. What every shopkeeper needs to cultivate? (4)
11. He hasn't yet made a score (8)
13. Hit and run in off-hand fashion (4-4)
15. Round figure? (6)
17. A depressing feature for meteorologists (6)
19. Clearly it includes him! (4)
21. Just one fish (4)



#### Quick Clues:

##### Across

7. Exaggeration (13)
8. Sham (8)
9. Relieve (4)
10. Afternoon nap (6)
12. Avaricious (6)
14. Babe (6)
16. Modest (6)
18. Conspire (4)
20. Sail a ship (8)
22. Thought (13)

##### Down

1. Dislike (8)
2. Free (6)
3. Daze (4)
4. Power (8)
5. Hinder (6)
6. Burden (4)
11. Self-government (8)
13. Swelling (8)
15. Shrewd (6)
17. Powerful (6)
19. Plunder (4)
21. Wicked (4)

### Sudoku

1		5		8		7		6
	9	6	7	1	3			
		7			5		2	
3				2	7			9
	2		8			3		
			2	6	9	5	8	
	6						3	
		4		5				7

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

#### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	6	8	1	7	3	2	9	4
1	4	3	9	2	5	6	7	
2	7	9	8	5	4	8	1	3
3	9	6	7	1	8	4	5	2
4	8	1	9	2	5	7	3	6
7	5	2	4	3	6	1	8	9
8	2	5	3	6	7	9	4	1
9	3	7	5	4	1	6	2	8
6	1	4	2	8	9	3	7	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Epee; 8 Cradle song; 9 Schooner; 10 Arcs; 12 Scotch; 14 Mishap; 15 Colour; 17 Benign; 18 Asti; 19 Amenable; 21 Tree-doctor; 22 Edge. Down: 2 Precocious; 3 Echo; 4 Launch; 5 Alarm; 6 Assassin; 7 Ages; 11 Changeling; 13 Two-timer; 16 Reason; 17 Breath; 18 Ants; 20 Acre. QUICK - Across: 1 Trip; 8 Abominable; 9 Spirited; 10 Exit; 12 Scarce; 14 Exempt; 15 Linger; 17 Custom; 18 Tell; 19 Calendar; 21 Distribute; 22 Deep. Down: 2 Respective; 3 Pair; 4 Bottle; 5 Middle; 6 Careless; 7 Sent; 11 Improbable; 13 Regulate; 16 Recoil; 17 Colour; 18 Tidy; 20 Need.



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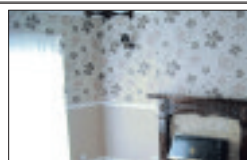
## PROPERTY SERVICES



### HAGLEY ROAD OLDSWINFORD

A very well presented Three storey, Three bedroom End Terrace Property, in close proximity to all local amenities and Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen with newly fitted units including oven/hob, three bedrooms the third having a velux window and Bathroom with white suite comprising of WC, wash hand basin, bath and shower. The property further benefits from having cellar, gas central heating and courtyard. UNFURNISHED. EPC RATING = D DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£700PCM



### KINGSWINFORD ROAD

An extremely well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, downstairs WC, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E

DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:MAY SMOKERS:NO

£595PCM



### BROOK STREET LYE

A three bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, garage, driveway affording off road parking and enclosed rear garden consisting of lawn and patio area. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550PCM



### BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD COSELEY

A very well presented two bedroom second floor Apartment with accommodation comprising of: Communal entrance with video entry phone system & communal staircase to 2nd floor, private entrance hall with built in airing cupboard, open plan lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric storage heating, double glazing and secure gated complex with parking space. FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550PCM



### HAMMERSLEY CLOSE CRADLEY HEATH

An extremely well presented two bedroom starter home in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, family bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM



### THE QUARTER CLARENCE STREET

An extremely well presented two bedroom property situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: May Consider PETS: No Children: Yes Smokers: No

£525PCM



### ASHFIELD CRESCENT WOLLESCOTE

A well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, and house bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed rear garden and paved foregarden affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS:NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM



### THE QUARTER CLARENCE STREET UPPER GORNAL

An Extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS:YES PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

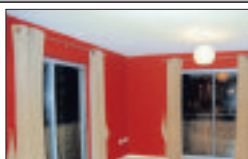
£525PCM



### WORCESTER STREET STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented two bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location close to Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation comprises of kitchen, diner, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, partial double glazing, rear garden and off road parking to the rear. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO

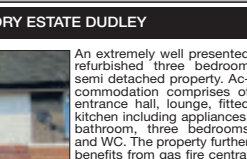
£525pcm



### THE EMBANKMENT MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented two bedroom first floor apartment located closely to all amenities of the Merry Hill Centre. Accommodation comprises of entrance hall, open plan lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms, Master with en-suite and bathroom. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM



### LINDEN ROAD PRIORY ESTATE DUDLEY

An extremely well presented refurbished three bedroom semi detached property. Accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen including appliances, bathroom, three bedrooms and WC. The property further benefits from gas fire central heating, double glazing and front and rear gardens. Viewing Highly recommended. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM



### REDHOLME COURT REDHILL

An unfurnished two bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance of Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation to comprise of: Entrance door with security code, private entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen with cooker, bathroom, two bedrooms and ample storage cupboards. The property further benefits from night storage heating, communal gardens and single garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

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### MORVALE GARDENS LYE

A Spacious and extremely well presented two bedroom ground floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts Gas central heating, double glazing, communal gardens and enbloc garage. UNFURNISHED/FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

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### NETHEREND LANE CRADLEY HEATH

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£395PCM



### DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented second floor apartment within a popular residential location within easy access to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Centre. Accommodation comprises of Communal entrance, private entrance hall with built in storage cupboard, lounge, fully fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from partial storage heating and double glazing. Viewing is strongly recommended. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS:NO CHILDREN: YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

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### FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

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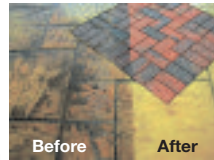
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For 6 nights

(Conditions apply)

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By phone 01902 317878  
8.30am - 6pm Monday - Friday  
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### Online

[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

### In person

at your local Express & Star Office  
**Cancel/amend**, call before 4.00pm Monday -  
Friday for the next day's advertisement or also  
before 4pm Friday for Monday's advertisement

### Lost & Found

**LOST/GINGER MALE CAT**  
Little bit of white.  
In Lewis Street, Bilston, may have wandered for some distance.  
Urgently need to find him as pet for special needs boy.  
01902 570787.

### Religious Notices

### Christadelphian

**THE NATIONS AND PROPHECY**  
Prophecies concerning Israel.  
March 31 at 6pm. The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford. Or write to The Christadelphians, FREEPOST WV1681 Kingswinford DY6 9BF for free information pack or ring 01384 278585 for recorded message.

### personal

**ADULT CONTACT CLUB** in this area! Men needed urgently! We also welcome ladies and couples. Free membership 08451 647804

### ATTRACTIVE

Slim, fit, loving and caring male, 48.  
Seeks loving, caring female, 28-48, for special Friendship, leading to a happy loving relationship.

All letters answered  
Box Number P18439,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1ES.

### ATTRACTIVE BLONDE LADY.

40's, 5ft 4ins, Size 10-12. Self employed. N/S, No Ties, warm, outgoing, loves travel, walks, cinema, dining out. Seeks tall, professional male, for friendship leading to relationship.

Photo essential (returned).  
Box Number P18447,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

### DOMESTIC CLEANER

Requires work 2/3 mornings a week, reliable and trustworthy. Wednesfield and surrounding areas.

Box Number P18433,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



### DOWN TO EARTH DIVORCED MALE

Early 50's, good sense of humour, NS, W/LTM that special female age 40-50 years, for a long lasting, loving relationship, children most welcome.  
Box Number P18431,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**EAST PARK RAIDERS FC**  
New team require players for new season, 13/14 for U13's. Must be year 7 and 8 in September 2013.

Players also required for our mens team. All positions available.  
All fully qualified coaches.  
Contact Julie,  
01902 454206, after 6pm.

**GENTLEMAN, 57,**  
seeks lady for friendship and days out.

Loving, caring nature and sincere.

Box Number P18445,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GENTLEMAN, 59,**  
Slim, likes nights in and out, sports, walks, having a laugh. W/LTM lady, 48-58 for long term relationship.

Box Number P18435,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GENTLEMAN 60**  
W/LTM Lady of similar age, for companionship.  
Theatre, dining out plus other interests.

Box Number P18436,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1ES.

**GENTLEMAN 80's**  
With own house and car.  
Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1ES.

**LADY 61**  
Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.  
Box Number P18450,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**LADY, SEEKS GENT**  
for friendship.  
Car owner preferred.  
Aged between 64 - 74,  
Doddridge / Wednesbury or near to areas.

Box Number P18429,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



**PENN COLTS FC 5/7 A SIDE TOURNAMENT**  
U7's minor - 8/10/12/14 on Saturday, July 6.  
U7's 9/11/13/15, on Sunday, July 7.  
For all application forms visit [www.penncolts.co.uk](http://www.penncolts.co.uk)

**PENN COLTS FC**  
Charter Standard Club, are looking for Children in Current School year 1, to join our Academy and play for Penn Colts Teams in September.

Training Saturday mornings.  
Also any parents who may be interested in Coaching or Managing a team.

Please contact Dave  
07831 582978.

**49 YEAR OLD MALE**  
Single, no ties, W/LTM, honest female aged 40-50 years.  
Dudley and surrounding areas.

Box Number P18449,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GENTLEMAN 80's**  
With own house and car.  
Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1ES.

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Car driver preferred.  
Box Number P18450,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
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**CASTLE AERIALS**  
Aerials from £64.99, Sky, multirooms, 10 yrs experience, free estimates. We will beat any written quote!  
Call: 01384 350150

**AA ABBEY AERIALS** Trust 43 years experience, I won't be beaten on price or service. Please call Phil on: 0121 422 1252

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
1 aerial into 2 rooms **£85**  
1 aerial into 4 rooms **£125**  
**SAME DAY SERVICE**  
01902 858191  
01384 429166  
01543 439095  
01922 716029  
07833 738857

### baby needs

**BUGABO** Cameleon pram push chair, newborn to 4, immaculate, £225 ono. 0976 822220.

**GRACO TRAVEL** system, immaculate condition, first to view will buy. £75 ono. 07875 444492.

**MAMAS & PAPAS** Cotbed, Wardrobe, changing station, blanket box, shelf, bedding, bed guard. £500 free delivery. 01902 750553.

### bikes

**ATLAS-TORRAIN** Mountain Bike, new, unwanted gift, full suspension, 18 gears, 20 inch wheels, £100 ono. 07810 500996

### carpets & furnishings

**SOLID OAK** flooring, brushed and oiled, unopened, 40 packs, covering 46sqm, bargain £35 per pack. 01902 330559.

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**CLOISTERS**  
STOURBRIDGE TUTORS Est 1992  
West Midlands Premier Agency  
Home individual tutoring  
LOCAL QUALIFIED TUTORS

Protection of Children Act regulated and Police checked  
Primary, 11+, SATS,  
Secondary, GCSE, A, Deg, etc.  
0121 2124986  
01902 671683  
[www.cloisters tutoring.co.uk](http://www.cloisters tutoring.co.uk)  
NEW TUTORS WELCOME

### elderly & disabled

\* **BROOKES STAIRLIFT**, 1 year old March, £1,100 new. Can be seen working. Cannock area. Excellent condition. £495 ono. 07870 540086.

### market place

### aerials

**LUKE KINGS AERIALS**  
STOURBRIDGE  
Free quotes & OAP Discounts from your local Aerial Man  
NEW AERIALS • REPAIRS • TUNING • SET UP TV's • FREE-SAT

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NEW Electric Scooters from **£695**  
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• Wheelchairs • Scooters • Walking Aids • Bath Aids • Baby Monitors • Kitchen Aids • Pumps • Rise Recliners • Cages  
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OPEN MON-SAT 9 am-5 pm  
FREE PARKING AT REAR

**WHEELCHAIR**, lightweight, hardly used, £70. Rollator, £30. Transfer chair/rollator, £100. All good condition. 01902 454594.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned lifts from £700. Plus New Lifts. 01952 405397 / 07897 273617

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**The Sofa SPECIALISTS**  
**CLOSING DOWN SALE**  
Due to Relocation  
Probably the biggest selection of sofas, sofas recliner sofas corner units and mobility lift and rise electric chairs and sofas to take away or next day delivery.

Chairs from £49. sofas from £99. wing chairs £119. corner sofas £299. recliner chairs £199. lazboy recliners leather sofas from £179 leather 3 + 2's £399. We stock lazboy furnico recliners. New and factory seconds at bargain prices. Before you pay retail prices visit the factory outlet.  
**Open Easter Sunday 10 am-4 pm**  
Open Monday - Saturday: 10am-6pm  
**EVERYTHING MUST GO**  
**NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED**  
**BFC Factory Outlet**  
Unit 2, Bull Lane, Western Way, Wednesbury, WS10 8RR  
0121 505 5829 Dee/Rob  
Dee 07722 344336  
Rob 07446 976656

**TRAIL FRIDGE** and tall freezer. Beko, £100 each ono. Fumble dryer, Hotpoint Condensor, £100. Excellent. 07932 676085.

**items for sale**

**BIG-IN-BEDS**  
DIRECT FROM OUR FACTORY  
**CLOSING DOWN SALE**  
Due to Relocation  
Largest selection over 1000 beds, mattresses and fashion beds in stock to take away or next day delivery. Single matts from £25, doubles £39, divan sets singles £49, doubles £59, super king pocket and zip and link, metal designer frames singles £39, doubles £59 - faux leather bed frames from £59, sleigh, ottoman and storage beds. We make special size mattresses, head sizes a specialty. We stock air sprung silentnight, sealy and rest assured at bargain prices too. Before you pay retail prices visit the factory outlet.

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**BFC Factory Outlet,**  
Unit 2 Bull Lane, Western way, Wednesbury, WS10 8RR.  
0121 505 5829 Dee/Rob  
**Next Day Delivery Service**  
Dee 07722 344336  
Rob 07446 976656

**CORNER LEATHER SOFA**, dark brown, cost £750. Immaculate condition. Call for £350. 01922 496150.

**DINING TABLE**, six chairs, £100 ono. Double wardrobe, £100 ono. Both good condition. 07932 676085.

**LEATHER SUITE**, brown leather, 3 seater and 2 seater suite, both recliners, £300. 07429 283530.

**MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS** Double, brand new, never used. 10" thick, air flow system, still in packaging. RRP £599. Bargain at £130. 07450 887796. Can deliver

**ONE HSL ELECTRICALLY** Adjustable double divan, as new, cost £1,800, will accept £600 ono.

Will separate as 2 singles. £300 ono. 01902 653035.

**PINE BEDROOM** furniture, high sleeper, wardrobe, two chests of drawers. £280. 07814 255377.

**THREE** seater settee, soft leather, cream, £100 ono. Cream swivel recliner with foot stool, £100 ono. Both as new. 07506 720919

**WARDROBE TREBLE** Chest of 4 drawers, chest of 2 drawers, as new £545 ono. 01902 655604.

**WARDROBE TREBLE** Chest of 4 drawers, chest of 2 drawers, as new £600 ono. 01902 655604.

**ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce**  
**CASH PAID TODAY**  
A GENUINE LADY BUYER  
All Boswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Old coins • Watches Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks Paintings • All silver items  
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc  
**ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING**  
**01922 495066 OR 07971 783206**

### A DIECAST TOY CAR

**ALL DIECAST TOY CARS WANTED**  
All conditions  
"Dinky"  
"Corgi"  
"Spot-on"  
"Britains and Airfix"  
"Mamod Steam Engines"  
"Scalextric Pro 1970's"  
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"Old Enamel Advertising Signs"  
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01902 745598 or 07984 159571

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**COMPUTER CLICKS**  
A no fix no fee Computer/laptop repair service in your home or office. No call out charge. good prices.  
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**KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS**  
We take the stress away with recession rates!  
We beat any price.  
Single items, Full houses, offices etc.  
40 years experience  
Call: 07966 281957

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Single Items to Full Removals.  
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**A & M CHEAP REMOVALS**  
Local Careful Firm  
Full or Part loads  
Call Don: 0800 587 0377 or 07749 941319

**A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items, full house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve. 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

**CALL DEAN!** Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item. 07429 435208/01902 839638

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.** Bathrooms removals/clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07889 467889. 01905 20821.

**KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS** recession rates-beat any quotes, fully experienced. 07966 281957.

**urgently required** dvds, cds and blu-rays, good prices paid. £100. can collect, please call 07889 467889. 01905 20821.

**WANTED** Records, classical, pop, rock, etc, also record player and sheet music, 1950 - 1990's. 01902 840410.

**kitchens & bathrooms**

**COMPLETE KITCHEN** solid medium oak doors, 16 base & wall units. Oven extractor nice condition. £225. 01299 924492.

**music shop**

**DRUMMER LOOKING TO JOIN A WORKING BAND**  
Very easy going, anything considered. (Blues, Rock, Tribute) etc. Twenty years live and studio experience. Pro attitude, top quality equipment. Recently moved to area and immediately available.  
Call Alvin on 07977 770017 or 01902 497790.

**OLD VIOLIN** and cello urgently required for advanced student. Any price and condition. 01780 758606.

**items wanted**

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Carpets dry in 30 minutes.  
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Open fires, log burners, brush & vac service, clean & tidy, fully insured  
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Reviews/sorters/fuses/breakers etc.  
All domestic and commercial work.  
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For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...

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GARDENS TIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

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Professional Decorating and Property Maintenance Service  
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WINDOW FILMS  
Ideal for Conservatories, Offices  
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Leather-Fabric-framework  
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Free quotes and advice • Friendly professional service  
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Call: 07791 966502 or 01384 356271  
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**boats & water sports**

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NARROW BOAT 50ft, licensed till Jan 2014, 4 year safety certificate. 220,000 ono. Open to offers. 07528 536579, 07772 764301.

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13ft, In-Shore Dory Boat, 2009/2010 Tohatsu 10hp, 4 stroke engine, virtually unused, snipe galvanised winch trailer, complete outfit, like new, ready to go.  
Cost £5,000, sell £2,875.

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Blacks Sandringham, as new. £95 ono. 07588 768515.

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MONDAY - April 1 10am-2pm, 84176 Rabbit Run, by T.F.M. between Dudley and Telford, WV15 5LS.  
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**07890 267041**

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IvyHouse Farm, A461, Spring Hill, Muckley Corner, between Walsall & Lichfield, WS14 0BX.  
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**07890 267041**

## BIGGEST EVERY SUNDAY & EASTER BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY BOOT SALE

10am-2pm, Cocksparrow Lane, off A34, Huntington, Cannock, WV2 4PE.  
www.bestbootsales.com  
**07890 267041**

## caravans holidays

CARAVAN Conwy, North Wales. Families and Couples only. All dates. 07944 671492.

## caravans wanted

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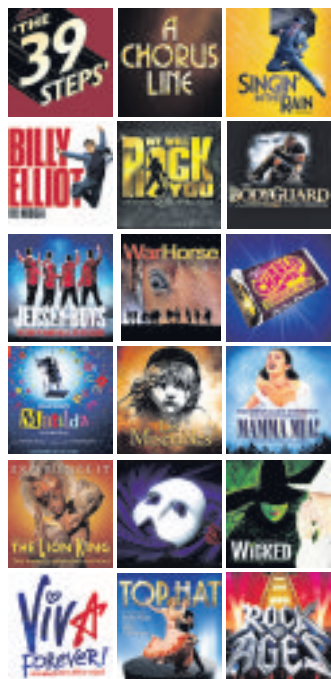
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# Motoring

Compiled by Motoring  
Editor Sharon Walters

## Vauxhall supermini with combinations

**YOU** could argue that Vauxhall is a bit late to the party when it comes to the fashion-led supermini segment dominated by the triumvirate of the Mini, the Fiat 500 and the Citroen DS3, but the Adam's lateness might just be the making of it.

Buyers in this lucrative part of the car market are looking for something different, and more specifically something they can make their own.

With that in mind, try this on for size: the Adam comes in four billion possible combinations. Which is a lot.

### By Matt Kimberley

There are around 60,000 different combinations for the exterior and about 80,000 for the inside, but since some combinations aren't allowed for either stylistic or manufacturing reasons, the 4.8 billion theoretical possibilities gets cut back a bit.

As you sit in the dealership, you can choose to change more than you can on any other car, such as the dashboard



The Vauxhall Adam which offers thousands of different combinations

finish and colour scheme, the headlining style, coloured clips on the wheel spokes, steering wheel trim colour, door trim colour, front grille cross-member colour, wheel style, wheel colour, roof colour, body sticker style and colour, gear lever and handbrake lever finish and then colour, body paint colour, seat fabric type, engine choice, trim level and so on until you realise that it's dark and all the sales staff have gone home.

Ultimately, there will be 40 styles of wheel alone, before you move into wheel colours and clips. Expect the 12 funky named exterior colours such as Papa Don't Peach, James Blonde, Buzz Lightgreen and I'll Be Black to be expanded as well. Before too long, there might just be an Adam for every person on the planet.

But if you prefer, you can just choose an 'Extreme Pack', which basically gives you a ready-made

design built from a combination of the available choices into a cohesive look. The choice is yours.

On more familiar ground, there are three trim levels, but none will have any identifying badges, so no one will necessarily know whether individual Adam is the cheapest but still well-equipped Jam, mid-range Glam or the sporty Slam.

The engine under the bonnet will stay a secret too; from a choice of 1.2 and 1.4 petrols. There's no diesel and there never will be according to Vauxhall. There's just no demand for it in a car this small. And small it is, based on a shortened and heavily modified Corsa chassis.

### Responsive

The larger engine is much more responsive than the 1.2, which feels a bit dim-witted at times compared to the genuinely sharp and lively character of the 1.4.

It comes in two power outputs, but either will do the job nicely. The 1.4 is still lightweight too, which gives the Adam a lovely lightweight and nimble feel at the front wheels. It bites into turns as keenly as a vampire bat; all the more so with larger, wider wheels and tyres fitted.

There's not much body roll either. Strengthening work around the suspension has done wonders to keep the stylish little nipper flat and stable without denting its thoroughly likeable sense of chuckability.

Even if you only potter around in it, there's a certain sense of joie de vivre, which is partly thanks to the interior style and partly down to the well-judged balance between the way the steering, pedals and slightly notchy five-speed gearbox feel.

It's easy to drive and easy to enjoy, although on the motorway the revs spin too high and it buzzes along a little out of its comfort zone.

There's not a massive amount of room in the boot. Although it's relatively deep and you can squeeze a surprising amount of soft baggage in, the pinching point where the

rear seat backs and the load lip come closest is a bit of a barrier to getting bigger stuff or hard cases in.

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**DAWN** attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTm tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

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**JANICE** 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

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**ATTRACTIVE** lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

**CARLA** 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

**43YR** old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945

**IRENE** 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

**62YR** old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

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**HI I** am Sara 21, a petite single mum, sporty, caring and looking for reliable, well groomed male 30-40yrs for adult 1-2-1. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402771

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**LOVING** caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

**LIZ** 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

**CLARE** 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047



**CAROLINE** attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

**MANDY** 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

**CURVY** red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

**LITTLE** bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

**SUE** 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

**BLONDE** attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

**SHAPLEY** attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

**SLIM** curvy blonde, 44, professional, seeks tall, professional male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 171231

**LOUISE** 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

**FUN** loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

**GENUINE** female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

**YVONNE** looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135

**FEMALE** looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169

**BLACK** attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021

**PATRICIA** 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

**MADELINE** 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

**5FT** 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388741

**MARIA** 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

**39YR** old black haired, medium build, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799

**NATALIE** 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753

**NICKY** looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393

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**GARY** kind, caring, seeks special lady, any age for fun times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403585

**MIKE** 45, bored, seeks female, any age for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403461

**MALE** 47, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, slim-medium build, likes nights out, GSOH, seeks special female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 302861

**JOHN** 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273

**SINGLE** male, 60, WLTm local lady with strong physical needs for regular contact with no commitment initially. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377459

**ATTRACTIVE** male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713

**BRIAN** 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189

**60'S** male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381307

**MICHAEL** 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479

**STEVE** 63, tall, fit, young outgoing, likes travel, socialising, holidays, N/S, seeks local lady, 55-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402931

**MALE** 5ft 8ins, athletic, GSOH, seeks older lady for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402357

**GENUINE** male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871

**SHROPSHIRE** male, 53, tall, dark, attractive, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement, any age/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367373

**PAUL** 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTm West Midland lady for regular mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374821

**PATRICK** 60's, single, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053

**JIMMY** 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157

**TALL** dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752

**MALE** 60, strong needs, seeks similar lady for regular evening/weekend meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384219

**DARREN** young looking 37, likes pubs, clubs, cinema, meals out, cosy nights in, seeks female 18-37. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392049

**CARL** 40, likes DVDs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393766

**HARDWORKING** 41yr old male, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403131

**KARL** 40, fun loving, caring, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389662

**GENUINE** good looking male, 38, seeking genuine female, 25-45 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392233

**WEST** Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTm affectionate lady, your place or mine for uncommitted enjoyment. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807

**WARREN** 60's, romantic, WLTm affectionate lady for evenings/weekend meetings and close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392191

**32YR** old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, caring, likes music, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

**VINCE** 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401683

**TALL** dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380

**STEVE** 54, attractive, seeks older lady, 55-75 for mutual adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399755

**DAVID** 40, genuine, down to earth, seeking someone for nights out and great times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398889

**OPEN-MINDED** blue eyed, dark haired loving male, seeks genuine, fun loving female for nights in/out and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402313

**ROY** 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637

**ROMANTIC** white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, seeks lady, likes meals out, holidays, cinema and keep fit. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402243

**PHIL** 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

**STEVE** 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks female with view to permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401695

**MALE** 50, genuine, honest, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394232

**41YR** old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times out, seeks female to share good times with, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 369663

**STEVE** 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks similar female for permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401441

**RICHARD** 48, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTm lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401431

**TALL** mature, solvent male, seeks to wine and dine younger lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401241

## GAY SINGLES

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to other men, look no further. TXT: GAY247 to 65125

[www.localgaydate.co.uk](http://www.localgaydate.co.uk)

**MALE** 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892



## Women TEXT FOR FUN!

\*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

**GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND INDP** followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

**BORED** and lonely, home alone all day, give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. Text INDP 205026 to 66888

**ASIAN** female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. Text INDP 204765 to 66888

**SINGLE** mum, kids at school all day, would love some fun chats. Text INDP 205285 to 66888

**JASMINE**, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. Text INDP 204668 to 66888

**BIG** is best, cuddly lady seeks skinny men. Call, whatever you look like and how I know! Text INDP 205069 to 66888

**SUE**, sporty and fun, why not chat with me. Text INDP 205455 to 66888

**NATALIE**, foreign beauty hopes a nice working man will send her a text. She is home alone. Text INDP 204600 to 66888

**SENSITIVE**, romantic lady seeks a compassionate man to swap texts with. I have a good ear and happy to listen. Text INDP 205422 to 66888

**LINDSEY**, available to chat, send her a text. She promises to text everyone back. Text INDP 2050



## Title taken after nervy errors are overcome

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club overcame a nervy finish to end with a 100 per cent Division Two record in the Wolverhampton League.

They only needed to avoid defeat to clinch the championship but home captain Dave Scriven threw away a rook and eventually lost.

Nic Fallowfield also blundered and lost, but Greg Dyett took advantage of an opponent error to win and Nick Harris captured the queen with a brilliant combination to level the match.

Nick Arkell delivered mate against an opponent in severe time trouble and Jeremy Fallowfield was happy to accept a draw to ensure overall victory and Stourbridge's 10th win in as many matches.

Their promotion hopes in Birmingham League Division Two are still in the balance. At Sutton Coldfield, Steve Jukes and Arkell both won their games but reserve Steve Alcock lost.

The remaining three games were all adjourned.

Dyett's position is complicated but Scriven is two pawns up and should have a win while Paul Sharratt is also ahead.

Victory would leave Stourbridge with two home matches to try to clinch promotion to go with their Wolverhampton elevation.

## Five-star Robins chirping

**WEDNESFIELD 0 Dudley Town 5**  
HITTING the net has proved difficult for Dudley Town this season – but they had no problem finding it against Wednesfield in the West Midlands Premier League cup.

Dreniz Bala opened the scoring after 10 minutes last Thursday, lashing home a sweet right-footed effort.

Two minutes later, Town doubled their advantage when a shot from Grant Joshua was blocked and fell to Tom Gadd.

Joshua had a penalty saved by Sam Arnold just four minutes later.

But the relief for the home side was short-lived as the resulting corner was hit short for Brett McGilligan to lash home a ferocious effort from the corner of the box.

Alex Perry and Dominic Watson rounded off the scoring.

# Battle expected for leading role



Lewis Blackbird

HEATHENS team boss Will Pottinger is expecting a battle like in the Cradley days of old for the leading role in their team this season.

Pottinger expects big things from skipper Ashley Morris and new signings Paul Starke and Lewis Blackbird. Dan Greenwood is also fired up to establish himself as a heat-leader in a big season for the Heathens.

Pottinger said: "I think the battle for the No.1 jacket will have a positive effect. When you look at the old Cradley days, when Greg Hancock and Billy Hamill were at the top of the team, there was a good bit of friendly rivalry between them."

"I think that will be the case between

### Dudley Heathens

Paul (Starke), Lewis (Blackbird) and of course Ash (Morris) who starts at No.1.

"Lewis is obviously still on his old average and Paul Starke as well is a much better rider than his figure suggests."

"Saying that, I think Ashley has room for improvement on his average as well because he did have a couple of disappointing meetings last year."

"He'll be starting the season riding Premier League (with Workington) as well and that can only be positive for him. It should be a good battle between the three lads."

Dudley's Travel Plus Trophy trip to Coventry last Friday was postponed.

It means that the meeting between the sides at Wolverhampton on April 9 now becomes the first leg as well as Dudley's opening night.

A new date of April 19 has been agreed for the second leg to be completed at Brandon.

Heathens head to Mildenhall a week on Sunday (April 7), for the first leg of the National Shield.

■ Dudley are looking to rent a track so their riders can get some laps in. They were due to take part in Wolverhampton's Press and practice night on Tuesday, but the event was cancelled due to snow.



Ashley Morris. Picture: John Hipkiss Photography

## Wright is a skipper looking to the future

HIMLEY Cricket Club have gone back to the future.

Greg Wright takes on the captaincy for a second spell at the Birmingham League Premier Division outfit.

Wright, who skipped for six seasons between 2005 and 2010, will lead the team after Stuart Wedge's decision to step down and aims to give some of their talented youngsters a chance.

After using some high-profile overseas players in recent years, including former India Test batsman Wasim Jaffer, Himley have opted to build from within.

"We have made a decision not to go with an overseas player this year," said Wright, who topped the division batting charts last year.

"It is getting more and more difficult to find the money for high-profile players and we also feel it's time to give some of our younger lads a chance."

"It's not blind faith. We have some very talented youngsters at the club and there is no point having a youth section if you are not going to give the young players an opportunity."

Batsmen Jamie Harris and Oliver Westbury, both been taken on by Worcestershire's academy this year, are most likely to benefit.

## Fisher on board for young side

FORMER Old Hill, Halesowen and West Bromwich Dartmouth wicket-keeper/batsman Mark Fisher has been charged with continuing Wombourne Cricket Club's success story with director of cricket Ross Edwards.

Fisher will bring nous to a youthful squad in the Birmingham League Premier Division after ex-skipper Liam Hughes' exit due to work commitments.

Edwards said: "He is an experienced Birmingham League campaigner. The rest of the squad are all under 25 so his experience will be vital."

Edwards, who oversaw promotion from Division One, has recruited paceman Dewi Jones from the Glamorgan academy, ex-Hampshire academy all-rounder Henry Bartlett from the Isle of Wight and off-spinner Ben Robinson from Beacon.

**Darlington Mowden Park 14 Stourbridge Saxons 9**  
THE Saxons came away from Darlington Mowden Park's impressive but chilly Northern Echo Arena with only a losing bonus point to show for their efforts.

The out-of-sorts visitors had to fall back on the right boot of Jamie Hearn to register on the scoreboard, with the hosts' mean defence and high-tempo attack prevailing.

But what proved a low scoring game was never dull, with both sides putting runners clean through the defences only to be called back for marginally forward passes.

The home defence coughed up plenty of first-half penalties in this National Two North match, but few were in Hearn's range due to a strong wind.

Saxons kicked for the corners but were uncharacteristically turned over in early attacking line-outs, letting DMP relieve pressure with high infield kicks that they chased effectively.

Hearn secured a 3-0 lead as DMP's front row stood under pressure up in the scrum after 12 minutes, but Saxons were straight onto the back foot as lock forward Rich Stott was sinbinned for slowing a quick tap penalty.

DMP's kicker missed his shot at goal, but, with Saxons pinned in their 22, waves of high-tempo home attacks finally breached the short-handed defence as prop Ralph Appleby gathered a speculative offload to crash over, Grant Cannon adding the conversion.

Hearn narrowed the lead to a single point as DMP's defence transgressed again, and the Saxons headed for

### Stourbridge Saxons

the half-time changing room knowing they would enjoy second-half wind advantage against a home defence whose transgressions were starting to test the patience of referee Wayne Falla.

Sure enough their No.8 Guy van den Dries went for a 10-minute enforced rest for a further offence, the Saxons spurning the kick at goal to lay siege to the home goal-line.

But the 14 defenders raised their game and were able to successfully shut out the Saxons, who were only once able to set a rolling maul that came down short of the tryline.

A succession of short drives were held up before a knock-on enabled DMP to clear their lines.

But Stourbridge fell further behind when, in a rare second-half foray into the Saxons' 22, DMP fly-half Cannon managed to step inside a defender to



Saxons' Pete White prepares to put the ball into the scrum

score under the posts. He duly added the extras.

The Saxons upped the tempo and finally forced a further kickable penalty with less than five minutes left on the clock.

Hearn again obliged to put them within a score, but a frantic set of Saxons attacks was again repelled and with the clock into stoppage time a dropped pass drew the final whistle.

Director of rugby Neil Mitchell praised the home team.

"All credit to Mowden



Rich Stott gets up to win line-out ball for the Saxons



The two packs get ready to lock horns at the scrum



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Winner Charlotte Bardsley

## Charlotte takes title wins after rapid rise

A KINVER schoolgirl has landed a double county table tennis success.

Charlotte Bardsley, who has just turned 11 and attends Heathfield School, Kidderminster, plays at Cookley Table Tennis Club.

She was among five teammates who travelled to Evesham for the Worcestershire county championships – and won two titles. Bardsley underlined her potential by taking both the under-12 girls' and under-15 cadet titles.

Bardsley only began attending coaching at Cookley in September, but has made rapid progress.

She has already been invited to train with the West Midlands regional girls' squad.

## Finals place for the girls

A DUDLEY school is in the finals of the national schools' badminton championships.

The Kingswinford School's Years 10 and 11 girls team will tackle eight other schools at Center Parcs Sherwood Forest, on the weekend of April 21-22.

It is one of the biggest school badminton tournaments in Europe.

This year, 6,140 school teams from more than 1,600 secondary schools took part with more than 31,000 children getting on court – a 35 per cent increase.

Adrian Christy, Badminton England chief executive, said: "We would like to express our congratulations to The Kingswinford School for reaching the finals."

"It is a highly competitive and prestigious tournament that draws out talent and entries from schools right across the country."

# Leaders go into semis with comfortable win

PREMIER DIVISION leaders Brierley Hill Sports Bar A went into the Stourbridge Snooker League Knockout Cup semi-finals with a comfortable success at Snooks SC A.

Narrow wins for Snooks' Mike Rizzo and Stuart Hale were offset by Luke Garland and Richard Haney. Callum Downing kept took the final frame.

Netherton Sports & Social successfully conceded an 87-point start to Amblecote Institute D but their B team fared better at 2011 champions Kingswinford RBL A thanks to Sam Harrison and Adam Coley wins backed by Cary Homer and Mick Cook.

Wombourne's Bob Mason and Stuart

## Snooker

Taylor helped win at Kingswinford Cons B, who had a 60-point start. Paul Tristram beat Leigh Bennett to make the game safe.

Kingswinford Snooker Centre progressed in the Plate. More than half the 143-point start from Premier team Hotshots SC, Kingswinford was lost as Dave Green and Rob Howen won two frames. Tim Carter beat Neil Beckley and John Byng restricted Milan Krstanovic to remove the deficit.

Stourbridge Institute C got a 64-point start at Brierley Hill Sports Bar C. Nick Aston and Harry Jones won and although

Mark Hatton cut arrears for Sports Bar, Simon Tyler saw Stourbridge through.

At Pockets SC, Kidderminster, Brierley Hill's D team's Rob Sidaway and Theo Brennan won opening frames. Darren Rose and John Betton won for Pockets. Rich Pepperall tried to claw back 78 points, only to see Mark Smith sink a final pink.

Pockets B beat Kinver Constitutional A. Chris Jones and Jason Hickman pulled back a 144-point start given to Pockets, but Dave Timmington won by 51 points and Danny Rees by 66 to turn the match for Pockets.

Stourbridge A are in the semi-final of the Inter League event after a win against Red-

ditch B, but their B team lost a quarter-final first leg to Kidderminster by 55 points.

**Knockout Cup quarter-finals:** K'ford Cons B (handicap +230) 457 (P Rickman) Wombourne (+170) 480 (R Mason, S Taylor, D Flavell, P Tristram); K'ford RBL A (+118) 354 (A Davies 38) Amb Inst B (+125) 427 (S Harrison, Cary Homer, A Coley, R Cook); Netherton Sports (+115) 441 (P Bowen, S Howell, R Blansley, A Barnett, C Webb); Amb Inst D (+202) 348; Snooks SC A (+39) 251 (M Rizzo, S Hale) B Hill Sports Bar A (-1) 332 (L Garland, R Haney, C Downing).

**Knockout Plate:** Kingswinford SC (+130) 375 (C Carter) Hotshots SC (-13) 336 (D Green, R Howen, R Stokes, M Krstanovic); B Hill Sports Bar C (+100) 322 (S Dingley, M Hatton) Stourbridge Inst C (+164) 387 (N Aston, H Jones, S Tyler); Pockets SC A (+46) 352 (J Betton, D Rose, R Pepperall 39) B Hill Sports Bar D (-147) 360 (T Brennan 40, R Sidaway); Pockets SC B (+94) 380 (D Rees 28, 33, D Timmington 27, R Moran) Kinver Const A (-50) 269 (C Jones 27, J Hickman 43, 37).

# FIGHT OF THE YEAR CLAIM ON TITLE TILT

STOURBRIDGE will now be represented on both sides of the ring when Steven Pearce defends his Midland welterweight boxing title against Sam Eggington on Friday, May 3.

Pearce fights at Dudley's The Venue but his opponent will be fellow Stourbridge fighter Eggington after Joel Ryan withdrew from the line-up.

Walsall's Ryan has twice pulled out from an area title bout, but his actions have opened the door for both fighters – most profitably for Pearce earlier this month.

'Pierce Pearce' stepped in to challenge Derby's Luke Gallear for the vacant crown at four days' notice and stopped him in five rounds at Burton Town Hall.

Eggington boxed his last bout at the Institute in Birmingham five days earlier, the 19-year-old scoring his first knockout when he put Vaclav Skromach over in round two.

Pearce and Eggington were involved as Prizefighter returned to Wolverhampton Civic Hall in January but went out at the first hurdle.

## Home

Pearce alleged an illegal punch in a second-round loss to eventual winner Glenn Foot, as Eggington went the distance with finalist Dale Evans. Now they face each other in a home show.

Promoter Errol Johnson says: "Pearce versus Eggington has all the ingredients of a Fight of the Year contender. They are both forward-fighters who enjoy a tear-up. They are both from Stourbridge, so there's local pride at stake, too."

"The fact that there's a title up for grabs, too, means it's going to be a great night of boxing." Four Dudley-based fighters are on the under-card and Cradley

## by Craig Birch

featherweight Chris Male appears after second thoughts over retirement.

He hung up his gloves last month but is in training for a swift comeback.

Male lost an English title shot on points at The Venue in November and Dudley's Dean Anderson will also try to put similar disappointment behind him on the bill.

'Deano' retired after eight rounds with Gavin McDonnell for the British Masters super-bantamweight belt in December but goes back up to featherweight.

Dudley lightweight Rizwan Rasool joins him after two straight wins since turning pro last March.

Brierley Hill's Kyle Spencer will look to make a name for himself on the show. 'The Style', a light-middleweight, scored a stunning first-round knockout last month.

Completing the card is West Bromwich's Adam Corbett, a light-heavyweight, and unbeaten super-middleweight Andrew Robinson.

Tickets are priced at £30 for unreserved seating and £60 at ringside, which includes a three-course meal. Call The Venue box office on 01384 453 101.



Steven Pearce lands an uppercut on Luke Gallear on his way to taking the Midlands welterweight boxing belt

## Lions can find their range – skipper

STOURBRIDGE LIONS captain Stuart Doolittle believes his side are ready for their big National Senior Vase semi-final clash against Selby on Saturday.

Stourbridge lost at this stage of the competition last season, a 53-5 defeat away to Wath Upon Dearne, writes **Lewis Deakin**.

However, Doolittle believes their good form can carry them on to the final at Twickenham this time.

He said: "We really want to keep our momentum going; we haven't lost since January and we have only conceded one try."

"The fact we didn't concede a try in last weekend's quarter-final against Old Leamingtonians was particularly special."

Back-row forward Dan Shrimpton and utility forward Scott Langdon are both injury doubts for the Stourton Park match.

"Dan Shrimpton and Scott Langdon are 75 per cent fit," added Doolittle.

"They will both have a fitness test to decide if they play."

Stourbridge have learned how to handle the pressure of a cup game, according to their skipper.

"Last year's defeat against Wath Upon Dearne was a huge disappointment, but they deserved the win," said Doolittle.

"Since then we have learned as a team, and know how to handle the pressure a cup game brings."

The Lions' match kicks off at 2.30pm with Stourbridge Saxons, the club's professional arm, taking to the field an hour later against Sheffield Tigers in National Two North.

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